Church Records.
Vol VIII 1948-54

NATIONAL

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1948 Special evening service to commemorate the
Jan 19. actual 100th anniversary of dedication of present Church building. Rev. Enoch Hughes of Palmer spoke on "The Abiding Mission of the Church". Other Clergymen from neighboring towns - Rev. Howard Gould of Monson, Rev. Thurston Powell of Sturbridge, Rev Lester Evans of Warren, and Rev. Stanley Reach of Palmer - assisted in the service. Greetings were read from former pastors Wm. A Estabrook, Rev. Burleigh Matthews, Rev. Randolph Hill and Rev. Norman MacLeod, Jr.

Feb. 15 World Day of Prayer was observed by a beautiful service based on the Lord's Prayer.

March 12 At a special meeting of Members of the Standing Committee and Church membership candidates it was voted by members of the Committee to recommend the following names for Church Membership.
Mable Coolbroth, Alice Martin, Nancy Coolbroth, Lucinda Lawrence, Ruth MacConnell, Alfred Morin, Jerold Towne, Roger Towne, Stewart Worby and Raymond Fay, Jr.

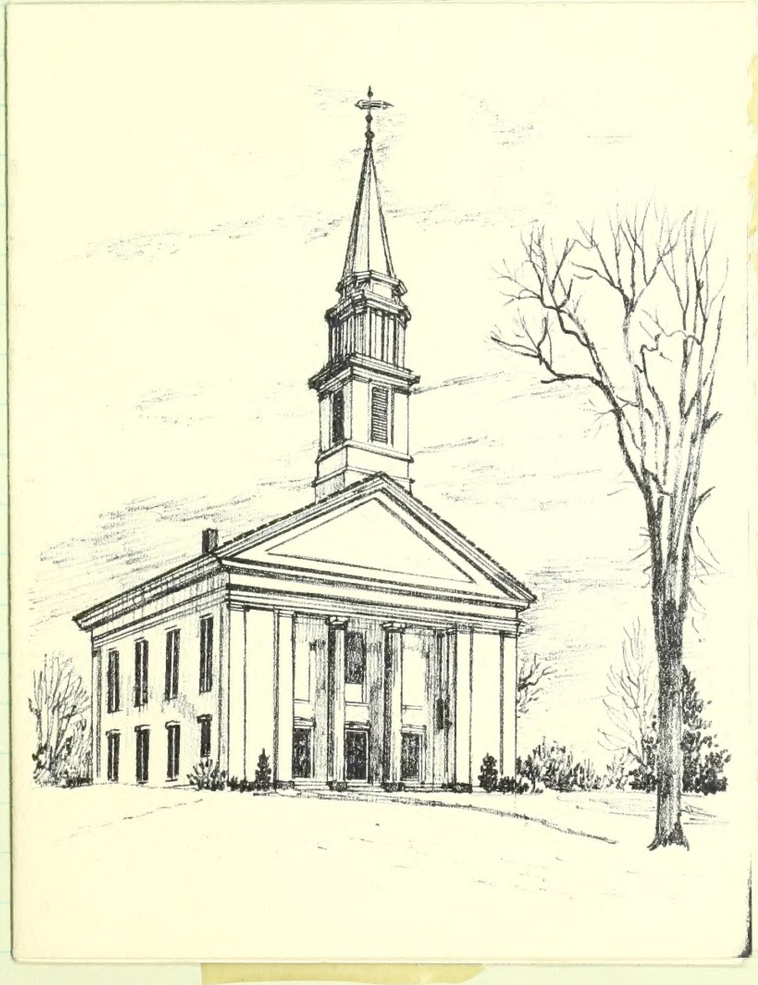
March 14 Palm Sunday: There were four baptisms: Mable and Nancy Coolbroth, Alice Martin, and Alfred Morin. Ten were welcomed into membership: Two by letter from the Congregational Church in Charlton, Evelyn and Roger Towne. Eight by confession of Faith: Mable and Nancy Coolbroth, Alice Martin, Lucinda Lawrence, Ruth MacConnell, Alfred Morin, Jerrold and Roger Towne.
Another feature of this service was the vote on the Merger of Congregational and Union Evangelical Churches. Our Moderator called for a membership vote to determine whether the question of the merger should be decided by a 2/3 or a majority vote. It was voted that a 2/3 vote decide the issue.
21 Votes were cast at this service:
On Question 1 - Merger - 14 for 6 against 1 Blank.
Question 2 - Cont. of Fellowship 30 for 3 against.
The ballot was held open for one week to allow other members to vote.
Three votes were received during the week. Nine more were cast on Easter Sunday.
The Summary on the vote was: 33 Ballots Cast
Question 1: "The Merger" 21 for 11 against 1 Blank
Question 2: "Continuance of Fellowship" 30 for 3 against.

"The 100th Anniversary"

April 18 Probably the outstanding event of the year was our Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the present Church Building, on April 18.

The day was outstandingly beautiful, in sharp contrast to the cold rainy weather that prevailed throughout the spring of '48. No doubt this fact contributed greatly in making it possible for so many of our friends to be here at that time. Guests were present from Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, Washington D.C., and more than twenty Massachusetts Cities and Towns were represented.

When preparing for this event it was felt that many former members and friends of the Church would be interested in knowing about this Celebration. Forty-seven invitations were issued. In response to these, nine groups of people came for at least a part of the program. Others, too far away, or in poor health, sent greetings and at least one made a generous contribution.



A guest book was provided and it was hoped that everyone attending any of the services would sign his name. 199 registered, but this by no means

PROGRAM

11:00 HISTORICAL SERMON by the Pastor, Rev. John G. Manter.

4:00 SERMON by Rev. Norman M. McLeod. Special Musical Program with Mrs. Gladys Campbell Dodge at the organ.

SUPPER WILL BE SERVED in the vestry following the afternoon Service.

7:30 DRAMATIC SERVICE. Historical Tableau and Special Music.

First Congregational Church
Brimfield, Mass.

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You are cordially invited
to attend the celebration of

THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
of the present building of
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN BRIMFIELD

APRIL 18, 1948

uest book was provided and it
hoped that everyone attending any
rvices would sign his name.
nistered, but this by no means

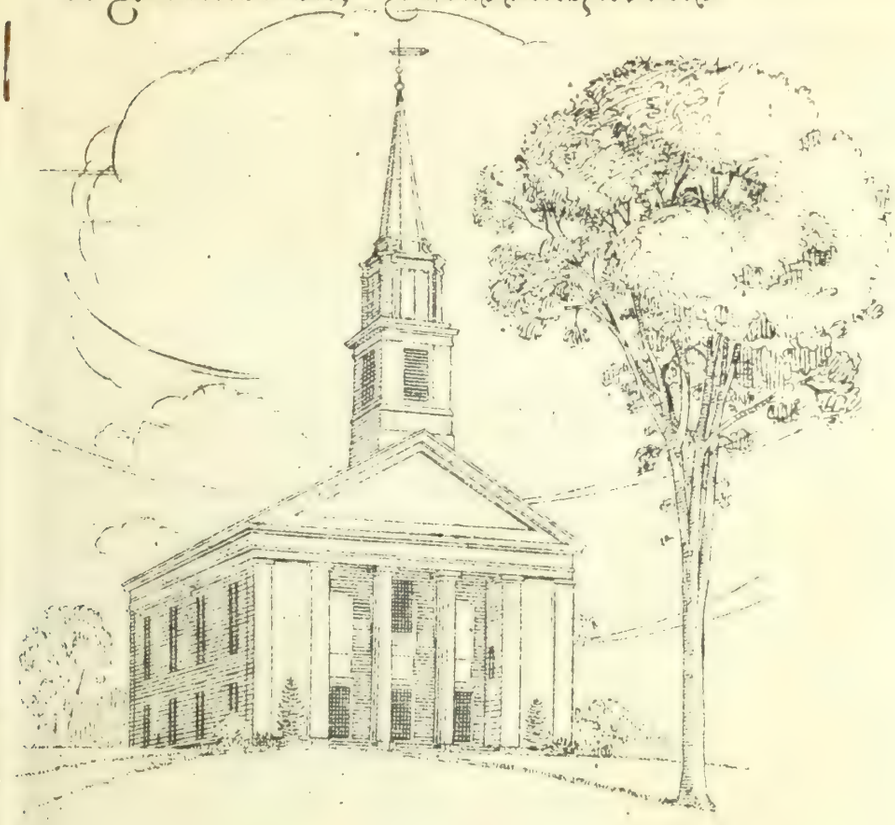
represented all that attended. We learned, later, that many of our members, and some of the towns people did not sign because they thought signatures of 'out of town guests', only, were desired. We have signatures of but 50 of our members, altho we know that more were present.

Through Miss Gladys Webber's generosity each out-of-town guest received a card bearing a beautiful photograph of our Church as a souvenir of the occasion.

Great interest centered in the remarkable historical exhibit. There were many sincere expressions of admiration for the beautiful arrangement of flowers and plants that banked the front of the sanctuary, and of enjoyment of the wonderful music and inspiring addresses.

There was much meeting and greeting in the Vestry, where luncheon was served following the afternoon program. The Ladies Benevolent Society donated a huge, beautifully decorated cake to grace the occasion. The Fidelis Group contributed funds which provided our printed program.

First Congregational Church
of Brimfield, Massachusetts



The One Hundredth Anniversary
of the present building

1721 · · 1848 1948

SUNDAY, APRIL 18th

Rev. John G. Manter, Minister

The splendid evening program
"as Gladys Webber presented her histo
with very effective tableaux and
music, was greatly enjoyed by
and was the fitting climax for
wonderful (

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE MORNING SERVICE

Mrs. Frederick L. Worby, Organist.

ORGAN PRELUDE "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"
Handel

*PROCESSIONAL "Holy, Holy, Holy!" No.25

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Minister: Draw nigh unto God and he will draw nigh unto you.

People: They that wait upon the Lord shall rene their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.

Minister: Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thy heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.

*UNISON PRAYER:

Eternal God, our dwelling place in all generations, under whose guidance our fathers walked, by whom they were strengthened and sustained, and in whom they found the life eternal, we pray that the spirit which kindled their faith may descend upon us this day. We thank Thee for every memory which this day revives, and for the cloud of witnesses who make this day sacred to us. Deepen within us the sense of gratitude for sacrifices made for us by those who have gone the way of life before us, and found Thy house a place of refreshment and strength. Give us to see by faith the needs of those who shall come after us, and to bequeath to them, as a rich heritage of the spirit our witness in life and deed to the unsearchable riches of the life with Thee. Lead us into a deeper experience of that life, that we may become forerunners of the glorious day when our world shall be the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. Amen.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Minister: O Lord, open thou our lips.
People: And our mouths shall show forth thy praise.
Minister: Praise ye the Lord.
People: The Lord's Name be praised.
*THE GLORIA PATRI

RESPONSIVE READING No. 608

SOPRANO SOLO "If with All Your Hearts" Mendelssohn
Miss Lillian Worby

JUNIOR SERMON "Ben's Friends Make a Discovery"

*HYMN "I Would Be True" No. 489

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 8:28-39.

SERVICE OF PRAYER:
Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And with thy spirit.
M: Let us pray. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.
P: And grant us thy salvation.
M: O God, make clean our hearts within us.
P: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.
SILENT PRAYER
PASTORAL PRAYER AND RESPONSE

OFFERTORY "Our Help in Ages Past" Jerome
The Choir

*DOXOLOGY

*HYMN "Faith of Our Fathers" No. 387
(verses 1,2, and 4)

SERMON "The Church of God"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*RECESSIONAL "Lead On, O King Eternal" No. 309

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Postlude"

*Congregation Standing.

VESPER SERVICE AT FOUR O'CLOCK

Mrs. Gladys Campbell Dodge, Guest Organist

ORGAN PRELUDE "Priere A Notre-Dame" Boellmann

*HYMN "I Love Thy Kingdom Lord"

I love Thy Kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

I love Thy Church, O God;
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
And graven on Thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given,
Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as Thy truth shall last,
To Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield,
And brighter bliss of heaven. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP:
Minister: I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord.
People: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
Minister: The Lord is nigh unto all them
that call upon him, to all that call
upon him in truth.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SOPRANO SOLO "The Lord Is My Light" Allitsen
Mrs. A. Robert Harrison

GREETINGS: Rev. Kenneth D. Backwith

TENOR SOLO "Consider and Hear Me" Wooler
Mr. E. James Cole

LITANY:

M: O Lord, who hast set before us the great hope that Thy kingdom shall come on earth, and hast taught us to pray for its coming; make us ever ready to thank Thee for the signs of its dawning, and to pray and work for that perfect day when Thy will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven.

For the work of Thy Spirit within and beyond the bounds of the visible Church,

P: We thank Thee, O Lord.

M: For the work of Thy Spirit in the history of the world, through peaceful advance, and through pain and tumult,

P: We thank Thee, O Lord,

M: For the work of Thy Spirit in the history of our own country, through its heros and leaders, in statecraft, law, and industry,

P: We thank Thee, O Lord.

M: For the work of Thy Spirit in science and commerce, in literature and art,

P: We thank Thee, O Lord.

M: For the work of Thy Spirit in the steady triumph of truth over error,

P: We thank Thee, O Lord.

M: For the work of Thy Spirit in the growing desire for true brotherhood, between men of every class and nation,

P: We thank Thee, O Lord.

M: For the work of Thy Spirit in the deepening sense of human worth in all nations and classes, and in the growing reverence of womanhood and childhood,

(over)

P: We thank Thee, O Lord.
M: For the work of Thy Spirit in the Church, which will not cease until it join all nations and kindreds and tongues and people into one great family, to Thy praise and glory,
P: We thank Thee, O Lord.

PASTORAL PRAYER

DUET "Love Divine, All Love Excelling" Stainer

Mrs. Harrison and Mr. Cole

SERMON Rev. Norman M. MacLeod, Jr.
Pastor 1939-1944.

*HYMN "God Send Us Men"

God send us men whose aim 'twill be,
Not to defend some ancient creed,
But to live out the laws of Christ
In every thought and word and deed.

God send us men alert and quick
His lofty precepts to translate,
Until the laws of Christ become
The laws and habits of the state.

God send us men of steadfast will,
Patient, courageous, strong and true;
With vision clear and mind equipped
His will to learn, His work to do.

God send us men with hearts ablaze,
All truth to love, all wrong to hate;
These are the patriots nations need,
These are the bulwarks of the state. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Jubilate Deo" Silver

*Congregation Standing

BUFFET FELLOWSHIP SUPPER IN THE VESTRY AT 5:45

EVENING SERVICE AT SEVEN-THIRTY

MUSICAL PRELUDE

"Spring's Awakening" Bach
"Chant du Nord" Lange
"Longing for Home" Jungmann

Mrs. Florence Wright, Miss Edith Cook, Violins
Mrs. Eugenia Tarbell, Piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*PROCESSIONAL

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

Glorious things of Thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed Thee for His own abode:
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove:
Who can faint, when such a river
Ever will their thirst assuage?
Grace, which, like the Lord the Giver
Never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering,
See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering,
Showing that the Lord is near:
Thus deriving from their banner
Light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna
Which He gives them when they pray. Amen

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Corinthians 12

VIOLIN SOLO "Chanson" Allen
Miss Edith Cook

HISTORICAL SKETCH AND TABLEAUX

Scene I "An Early Family Goes to Church
Scene II "Lining The Hymns"
Scene III "An Early Sewing Circle"
Scene IV "The First Sunday School"
Scene V. "The Parish Rebuilds 1847-48"
Scene VI "The Hurricane of 1938"
Scene VII "The Church Marches On!"

*RECESSIONAL "God of Grace and God of Glory"

God of grace and God of Glory
On thy people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient church's story;
Bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
Scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise:
Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage
For the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness;
Bend our pride to thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness;
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage,
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces
In the fight to set men free.
Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage,
That we fail not man nor Thee!

Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let us search for thy salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage,
Serving thee whom we adore. Amen.

enediction

STLUDE "Largo" Handel

te: The Historical Sketch for the above service was written by Miss Gladys L. Webber.

The Church appreciates all those who have worked so hard to make this service possible.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

The first meeting house in Brimfield was erected where the present house stands in 1721-22. It was a frame building 45 feet long by 40 feet wide. The frame stood a whole year exposed to the weather.

One of the conditions on which townships were granted was, that provision should be made for the erection of a house of worship and for the settlement of an able orthodox minister. At first these conditions were accepted well, but later became burdensome.

Commotion of Indian wars added to the distress and poverty of the first settlers and hindered efforts for the completion of their house of worship.

There was a great shortage of nails. Nails hammered out on an anvil were not easily obtained.

Lumber, too, was difficult to procure as sawmills were scarce. The roads were not much more than bri paths causing travel slow and arduous.

In 1724, the first pastor, Rev. Richard Treat, a gr uate of Yale College, was ordained. He was granted approximately 120 acres for a settlement and 85 £ salary to be paid by the town.

In 1731, the town voted that the selectmen were to manage the finishing of the meeting house and provide nails.

Soon a vote was passed to lay the floor of the hous and the seats for the body of the church be made an galleries be added.

It was a plain barn-like structure with no chimneys and no tower or steeple. It was marked as a meeting house by its numerous windows, five above and four below. The upper windows were probably wooden shutters, and the lower ones had diamond panes. The seats in the center of the house were long benches, perhaps without backs. The deacon's seat was in front of and beneath the pulpit. Women sat on one side and the men on the other.

May, 1748, 200L were appropriated to lath and plaster and paint the exterior. Painting was considered unusual in those days as most families were too poor to afford such extravagance.

In 1805, the first house was torn down and by the sale of pews and money appropriated by the town, a more suitable building was erected, like the present one.

A man by the name of Elias Carter took the contract to build the new house for $6,666.67. The raising was a big town affair. People came from far and near to participate in the doings. Each district

was to provide a certain number and size of timbers. Men and horses brought necessary timbers and nails. One whole side was raised at a time.

One of the church's outstanding pastors, Dr. Joseph Vaill, speaks of this second building as a "commodious and beautiful house, rather imposing, having columns in front and a very respectable steeple."

Foot stoves had been used before but a stove was now installed. The bell was soon cracked, but in June, 1807, a second one was hung in the belfry. In 1819, this was exchanged for a third bell. This remained until February, 1847, when one cold Sunday morning, the church was burned to the ground by an overheated stove pipe.

Samuel A. Hitchcock, founder of Hitchcock Free Academy, took the melted metal and furnished a new bell weighing 1300 lbs. In 1855, this cracked and was exchanged for another. This hung in the belfry until the hurricane of 1938. It miraculously escaped injury in its fall and was restored to its proper place again.

The third meeting house, our present one was commenced immediately and built in 1847 according to the original plan and January 19, 1848 was dedicated.

Soon carpets, cushions and a singers gallery were added.

From time to time, this church was remodeled and the main auditorium was redecorated. A lower room was fitted up, known as the vestry and used as a Town and Parish Hall until the Town Hall was built in 1848.

In 1866, Samuel A. Hitchcock Esq. gave the parish $5,000 to constitute a ministerial fund.

Later, in 1869, Hon. John Wyles, another benefactor, gave $5,000 for minister and parish expenses. Others who were prominent during these days were Thomas Hubbard, Deacon Tarbell, Eaton, Hitchcock.

Captain Salisbury, a noted music teacher, was leader of the choir. James Henry Brown and T. J. Morgan played the violin: Marquis Converse and P. W. Paige, the bass viol; Alvan Bacon and John Morgan, the doubl bass; C. C. Warren and George Converse, the flute; Henry Converse and Paleman Moon, the clarinet and H. D. Griggs, the bassoon.

In 1854, a cabinet organ was purchased which was replaced by a better instrument in 1867 given by Hon. John Wyles.

It might be well to note that the first Sunday School was organized in 1864 by the pastor Rev. Charles W. Hyde, also author of the Town History.

The citizens of Brimfield have always been public spirited. When there was a great need, folks got together and had a "Bee". About 1914, one of these "Bees" of twenty-five men, headed by Orrin Hicks, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, did the necessary digging to install running water in the historic church.

About this time through the generosity of John Noyes, the church was partly wired for electricity. Thus the old hand lamps and chandelier were discarded.

For some years, there was a growing desire for a pipe organ. In response to this wish, Mrs. James T. Brown gave the church a gift of over a thousand dollars as a nucleus fund for an organ in memory of her daughter Belle Brown, a former organist. By the generosity of Mrs. Myron Chamberlain and others, an Estey Organ was purchased and installed and the auditorium was redecorated.

An old mahogany pulpit made by a local cabinet maker, Benuel Parker, who has left many examples of his fine workmanship in Brimfield was uncovered in the church attic. It was restored to its original grandeur by Mr. Frank Coolbroth and set up in its proper place in the auditorium to be admired by all.

There have been divisions and differences within the church, but after the 1938 hurricane there was great evidence of underlying loyalty. The residents of the town were astounded and amazed to look through a tree strewn common to a wrecked church, roofless and steepleless. The first impulse of some was to tear down the old church and to rebuild a smaller one which would be adequate for this community. Many shook their heads in despair, but many eager hearts and hands went to work. The committee responsible for this remarkable accomplishment of restoration were as follows: the Board of Trustees with Roe S. Clark, chairman, Clarence B. Brown, Frank S. Gifford, Charles W. Wheeler, William D. Spooner and Everett D. Landen, treasurer.

Deacon Clarence B. Brown attributed much to the quick and skillful action of Edwin Fenton, new chairman of the Board of Selectmen, and his helpers in repairing it.

The expense was met largely by the Hitchcock Free Academy Alumni Association, friends, and aid from a special fund administered by the Massachusetts State Conference and Missionary Society. Many donors were moved to give just for sentiment for the old steeple. Town organizations, especially the time-honored Brimfield Improvement Society, assisted generously in improving the common and the hill. Through the leadership of the Brimfield Improvement Society a "Community Bee" was organized, and with the help of town and private equipment the south slope of Church

Hill was leveled and graded.

As in olden days, people felt that, "This is just the place for a meeting house." To many of us this old edifice stands as a sentinel, guarding a sacred spot. It symbolizes a glorious past and we trust an illustrious future.

Gladys L. Webber.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ANNIVERSARY

Mr. Clarence B. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Deland
Mrs. Adelaide M. Knowlton
Rev. and Mrs. John G. Manter
Mrs. Mabel B. Peirce
Miss Gladys L. Webber
Miss Barbara Wood
Mrs. Fred L. Worby

THE SUPPER COMMITTEE

Mrs. James C. Hatch
Mrs. Ruth H. Phillips
Mrs. Walter Brown

THE HISTORICAL DISPLAY

Mr. and Mrs. Roe S. Clark

THE FLOWER COMMITTEE

Mrs. Robert MacConnell
Mrs. Alfred Wigglesworth

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Committee wishes to thank the Fidelis Group for providing the money to make these programs possible.

The Ladies Benevolent Society has given the beautiful cake for our Birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip T. Brown have given the bouquet of Jonquils in memory of their mother, Mrs. Florence D. Brown.

The Congregational Church of Holland extend their congratulations and have given a bouquet of flowers.

The Committees wish to thank all who have given time, thought and effort to this Anniversary.

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

...1724-1948...

1724-34	Rev. Joseph Treat
1736-75	Rev. James Bridgman
1775-96	Rev. Nehemiah Williams
1798-1803	Rev. Clark Brown
1808-11	Rev. Warren Fay
1813-34	Rev. Joseph Vaill, Jr.
1835-37	Rev. Joseph Fuller
1837-41	Rev. Joseph Vaill, Jr.
1842-46	Rev. George C. Partridge
1847-49	Rev. B. E. Hale
1849-61	Rev. Jason Morse
1862-70	Rev. Charles M. Hyde
1870-73	Rev. Moses B. Boardman
1874-78	Rev. Webster K. Peirce
1879-81	Rev. Doane A. Atkins
1882-84	Rev. S. U. McDuffee
1884-89	Rev. Joseph Kyte
1889-91	Rev. M. L. Richardson
1891-93	Rev. Wilbur Rand
1893-1900	Rev. Robert J. Kyle
1900-02	Rev. William P. Clancy
1902-10	Rev. Samuel Eaton
1910-13	Rev. William L. Jennings
1913-23	Rev. William A. Estabrook
1924-26	Rev. Robert W. W. Campbell
1926-28	Rev. J. Cecil Hayes
1928-29	Rev. John Dutton
1929-31	Rev. Randolph H. Hill
1931-39	Rev. Burleigh V. Mathews
1939-44	Rev. Norman M. MacLeod, Jr.
1944-	Rev. John G. Menter

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BRIMFIELD

Freedom called to our pioneers,
And into the wilderness,
With hope and dauntless courage,
Through trackless waste, they press.

Bleak and dreary they find the way;
But with many a heartfelt prayer
To God, in whom they strong confide,
They built a temple there.

Crude and unfinished--but rich in love
Of Him whose name it bore,
It stood a lasting monument,
To the living faith of yore.

Those souls have passed, but others came
And watched through darkest night,
And ever, with unfaltering faith,
That lamp was kept alight.

Time rolls on--the centuries pass,
And, through the changing scene,
The old still glides into the new,
With storm and stress between.

The world is torn by wrong and hate,
Wars tumult in far flung lands--
Still--founded on the living Rock,
Steadfast--serene--God's temple stands.

Strong in the strength of those, who still
That glorious vision see,--
Who can measure the part it plays,
In shaping our destiny.

I. F. H.

1948

April 25 A meeting held following the church service, [illegible]
Clarence Brown and Mrs. Charles Kisce were appointed as
delegates to attend the annual meeting of the Pilgrim Association
of Congregational Ministers and Churches at the Congregational
Church in Springfield.

May 1 The annual Mothers & Daughters Banquet was held in the
Vestry at 6:30 with Mrs. Alice Brown of Windsor as guest speaker.

May 7 A meeting was held following the morning service to
select delegates to the 140th Meeting of the Connecticut
Congregational Conference and Missionary Society at Old
First Church in Springfield May 17, 18, 19.
Voted: Mrs. [illegible] and Mrs. [illegible] be delegates
with Mrs. Gladys Anderson alternate.

May 23 Message Sunday Observed.

May 30 Memorial Sunday: Patriotic decorations from Hampden
and Springfield were used.

June 13 Children's Day: Church School music replaced
the regular morning service.
A special meeting held following service, that church
was represented by delegate with Mrs. Gordon as alternate,
to attend the Ordination Examination service for
Walter K. Gooding to be held at Skinner Memorial Chapel
in Holyoke at 4:30 P.M. June 13.

June 27 Kathryn Ann Plumley was baptized.

July 25 A special meeting following morning service
Mr. Master reported that Mrs. Merton Booth had requested
that she be granted a letter of dismissal from this church
Voted to issue regular letter of dismissal.

August 1 A special meeting after the morning service was called
to consider written request of Mr. & Mrs. Merton L. Booth
that they be granted letters of transfer to this church
to a church in Pasadena, California. They were placed
on the "Inactive List" Dec. 1937.
Voted that this Church grant a suitable letter according
Mr. & Mrs. Booth as members of this Church.

August 29 A special meeting called after the morning service
the resignation of our organist was read.
"[illegible] resignation [illegible] Congregational Church in Springfield [illegible] Sept. 1st."
[illegible] "[illegible] be glad to help whenever possible." Sincerely Mrs. Mary L. Worby
Action: Voted to accept this resignation with regret. Vote
to write letter of appreciation to Mrs. Worby.
Voted to call Mrs. W. T. Brown to bring as candidate for organist
[illegible] Church School Superintendent [illegible]
[illegible] Church School [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] not carried."

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] it was voted to hope such [illegible] expression of willingness [illegible] never possible, is very [illegible].

[illegible]

[illegible]

Respectfully,
Georgia H. Linden, Clerk."
First Congregational Church in Grimfield

Sept. 11 In a meeting following the morning service it was voted that Mrs Lisle T. Brown be appointed Organist.

Sept. 26 Maureen Elizabeth Langan was baptized.

Oct. 3 World Wide Communion Sunday

Oct. 10 Harvest Festival

Oct. 17 Layman's Sunday under direction of Charles Dickard.

Oct. 24 Five children baptized

Nov. 14 Special Evening Service with speaker for and against the Merger. Every member notified of the meeting. Planned that final vote be taken Nov. 21.

Nov. 21 Meeting following Church service. Voted: to grant letter to Mr. Lillian Hardy Freeman transferring membership to the Second Baptist Church of Southbridge.
Vote on Merger postponed by Mr. Trantor since so few attended the Nov. 14 meeting.

Nov. 24 The Grimfield-Sutton Thanksgiving service held in Sutton. The Collection to go, as usual, "Home for Little Wanderers"

Nov. 28 Sachem Conquest held with Rev. Clement Anderson guest speaker.

Dec. 5 A final special evening meeting was held with speakers to discuss both sides of the Merger question. Every member notified by card. 5 only attended. Final vote scheduled for Dec. 12.

Dec. 12 Special Sunday Service conducted by Young People.
Mr. Trantor postponed the vote on the Merger until the annual meeting scheduled for Dec. 30.

Dec. 19 The Christmas Offering received today goes to "The Veterans of the Korea" fund.
A Choral Reading, coached by Mrs. Kevis was presented in the evening.

Three items have been responsed to the Planning Committee during the year.
1- Strong few. Committees have been appointed & first and welcome three ushers. Church service. 2 Teaching Service as established in May, 2 music Committee appointed in Oct. Interest has been stimulated in

[illegible] "Reading Program" [illegible] it is hoped that this project will [illegible] next year.

Dec. 30. — Annual Meeting —
Held in Vestry at 7:30 following a Fellowship [illegible]

Rev. Manter, followed by a hymn and prayer.

Roll Call: 30 members present; 14, responses from absent members, 64 absent, no response (Total 108)
Minutes of last Annual Meeting were read and accepted. Read by Mrs. Sanden.
Treas. Report: by Everett Sanden was accepted as read.
[illegible]
Auditor's Report: Not given: Moderator declared that this will be accepted at a later meeting.
Pastor's Report: Read by Mr. Manter. Accepted. Handed in.
Church School Supt. Report: Read by Mrs. Manter. Accepted. Handed in.
Ladies Benevolent Society Report: Read by Esther Parker. Accepted. Not handed in.
Fidelis Report: Read by Mabel Tuttle. Accepted. Handed in.
Pilgrim Fellowship Report: Read by Fredrica Florence. Accepted. Handed in.
Trustees Report: No report. Treasurer Sanden stated, however, that much of their business was really in the Treasurer's report. Stressed the need of funds.
Nominating Committee Report: Read by Tracy Hanson. Accepted.
Election of Officers:
Voted that Clerk cast 1 ballot for slate of officers as reported by Nominating Committee. Clerk so voted.

Officers for 1949:

Moderator	Mr. Clarence B. Brown
Clerk	Mrs. [illegible] Sanden
Treasurer	Mr. Everett L. Sanden
Asst. Treas.	Mr. Clarence Keith
Members of Standing Com. for 1 year	Mrs. Hester Sherman Mrs. Elaine Wright Mrs. Alice Mathieson
Supt. of Church School	Mrs. Ruth Manter
Deacon for 4 years	Mr. Lawrence [illegible]
Trustee for 5 years	Mr. [illegible]
Layman's Representative	Mr. Charles Fitzpatrick
Auditor	Mr. Clarence Fitzpatrick

Motion made - by Mr. Manter, and seconded, that Mrs Milton Booth be granted a Letter of Dismissal to Church in Palmer.
Clerk reported that Mrs Booth had been sent such a letter during summer. (July 25, 1948)
Motion: Voted that matter be investigated, and in the event that Mrs Booth has not received her letter, that another be sent.

Mr. Manter reported that we would not be asked for "War Victim & Reconstruction Gifts" this year as a separate item. However, appropriation will be larger. Sacrificial Gift Envelope plan will be employed for those who would like to aid those who suffer from the war.

Presentation by Mr. Manter of 8 shares of Common Stock of Southern California Edison Co. given to the Church by the late Bertie E. Campbell. Acceptance, on behalf of the Church, made by Treasurer, Everett Carden.

Estabrooke Memorial Fund being raised for improvement of Church at Thetford Vt. was explained by Mr. Manter. Several expressed desire to contribute personally. No motion.
Moderator declared that as no motion had been made, the matter to be left in hands of Clerk and Pastor who will accept any personal donations to this fund.

General discussion on process of obtaining a "Collector, to Assist Church Treasurer". Decided that it would be necessary to amend the By-laws. No action possible at this meeting to amend By-laws to provide for such office as proper notice with 4 signatures attached must be in hands of Church Clerk previous to meeting.

Music Committee: Voted that Standing Committee act as Music Committee - CR & delegate authority to any group they may select.

Discussion of Water situation in Pittsfield. No action taken, Moderator stating to

1846

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Church Membership! Dec. 20, 48 24 M 4 F 108 tot.

Motion to adjourn

Respectfully submitted
[illegible] Sanders, Secy.

The Pastor's Report for 1948.

The Year 1948 has been an eventful one for the First Congregational Church of Brimfield. It was one when we took joy in looking back over our past and in examining our history. In the evening of January 19th we celebrated the actual date of the dedication of our present edifice with a special service. Rev. Enoch Hughes of the Second Congregational Church of Palmer brought the message and Rev. Howard D. Gould of the Monson Congregational Church, Rev. J. Thurston Powell of the Sturbridge Federated Church, Rev. Lester E. Evans of the Warren Federated Church and Rev. Stanley Keach of the Second Baptist Church of Palmer took parts in the service. The former pastors, William A. Estabrook, Rev. Burleigh Matthews, Rev. Randolph H. Hill and Rev. Norman M. MacLeod, Jr. sent greetings to the Church. It was deemed wise, however, to have a more extended celebration on Sunday, April 18th, when it was felt the weather would make it easier for more to attend. April 18th proved to be a perfect Sunday for the all-day celebration. It was an occasion which brought many of the former friends of the Church back to Brimfield and in which was exhibited the finest type of cooperation among the people and friends of the Church. Rather than take your time to give a full report of that day with its three significant services beginning with the Morning Service in which the pastor preached a historical sermon, continuing with the Vesper Service at four o'clock at which the former pastor, Rev. Norman M. MacLeod, Jr., brought the message and the Evening Service during which the historical [illegible] presented I am going to suggest that our Clerk be instructed to assemble a permanent file of this occasion which will preserve for those interested to investigate the record of this event.

The First Friday in Lent was observed as the World Day of Prayer. There was a service that evening in the Church in which the people of the Church took part in the service prepared for this day. The Union Maunday Thursday Service was held this year in the Holland Church.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
of Brimfield, Massachusetts
December 21, 1948

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS:

The Annual Meeting of The First Congregational Church of Brimfield will be held in the Church Vestry on Thursday evening December 30, at 7:30 P.M.

A fellowship supper will precede the meeting at 6:30. Each member and his family are asked to bring their own supper. Coffee, rolls, and dishes will be provided.

If you find that you cannot be present it will be appreciated if you can send some "response" to be read at the roll call.

Evelyn B. Landen,
CHURCH CLERK.

Charles DeLand. A group of people from the Sturbridge Federated Church and the Second Baptist Church of Palmer joined us in this service. Rev. J. Thurston Powell of the Sturbridge Federated Church brought the message. A fine Easter breakfast was served at the Church by a group of the Ladies Benevolent Society.

In May Grange Sunday was observed as part of the celebration of Rural Life Sunday. The various patriotic orders of Sturbridge and Brimfield were our guests for Memorial Sunday. For the first time in several years it was decided to hold the Baccalaureate Service in the evening. It was felt that this time might be easier for the parents. We were glad to have Rev. Frederick Bruce of Wales bring the messsge for this occasion. In August Alumni Sunday was observed with an Alumni Choir, with Mr. Andrew Lagill preaching the sermon, and Rev. Morton Hale taking part in the service. It is gratifying to have so many of the alumni interested in the Church. During your pastor's vacation in August Rev. J Thurston Powell of Sturbridge, Rev. Horace Blackford of Brookfield, Rev. Stanley Roach of Palmer and Rev. Edwin M. Gordon of Dudley occuppied the pulpit. During the summer there was no Vacation Church School held this year due to illness in the families of several of the regular teachers. It is our definite intention to have a school next summer.

Worldwide Communion Sunday was observed as usual on the First Sunday in October. A special offering was taken at this service for the regular missionary apportionment of the Church. The pastor enjoyed a vacation on Sunday, October 17th, when under the direction of our laymen's representative , Mr. Charles DeLand, the laymen took complete charge of the service. Mr. DeLand, himself held the undivided attention of the children with his illustrated Junior Sermon and Mr. Herbert Carleton brought a very fine message. A Union Thanksgiving Service was held this year at the Holland Church on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. I shall leave the report of Youth Sunday to the

[illegible] fellowship. At Christmas time we appreciated the effort of those who took part in the Play, "The Empty Room" by Dorothy Clarke Wilson under the direction of Mrs. William Davis.

The Mother and Daughter Banquet has become a regular event which is looked forward to with a good deal of anticipation. This year the banquet was well received. Mrs. Alice Snow of Stow was the speaker. The fathers and sons have decided that they should also have a banquet. A very successful Father and Son Banquet was held in November with Rev. Clement Kahn of Worcester as the speaker. Much of the success of these banquets this year has been due to the able chairmanship of Mrs. Esther Barker in planning the suppers.

Since October a Music Committee of three including, Mrs. Charles Deland, Miss Harriet Tarbell and Mrs. Frederick Worby have been active. This committee was appointed by the Standing Committee. I should like to suggest that this meeting consider the advisability of making this committee a regular committee elected by the people of the Church with the power to appoint the church organist and choir director on the approval of the trustees, and to act in an advisory capacity to the organist and choir director. We feel that we have been fortunate to have the positions of organist and choir director so ably filled after the resignation of Mrs. Worby and Miss Lillian Worby who had contributed so much to the music of the Church for a number of years.

We have appreciated during the last year the able services of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Deland who have acted as heads of the Welcoming committee and Mr. Frederick Worby who has been in charge of the ushers. We feel that this contributes much to the dignity of the service.

During the passed year I have officated at five funerals of people who were connected with Brimfield. The place which has been left Deacon Bert E. Campbell will be difficult to fill. His life was a very vital part

[illegible] and the community. I have officated at seven weddings in the Town of Brimfield. Fourteen children received the rite of Christian Baptism in the Church during the year. I shall leave the actual statistics for Church members to our Church Clerk.

I confess that I have not kept an actual record of the number of calls I have made during the year. I do feel that this is a very important part of the pastor's work, and I shall appreciate it if you will let me know when there is someone who especially needs a visit from the pastor.

This has been a rewarding year from my point of view. I have felt that I was not carrying the work of the Church alone, but that many of you were vitally interested in it because you have been ready to help in so many ways. Both Mrs. Manter and I appreciate all you did for us both personally and in the way ~~of~~ you carried some of the duties of the Church we had been carrying at the time when Mrs. Manter was ill. We still feel that there is much to be done to make the message of Christ more keenly felt in this community. With that task constantly before us we look out into the coming year seeking the fellowship of the Church and God's strength.

Annual Report of the Brimfield Church School 1948

The year 1948 began with such severe weather that our Church School work was badly interuppted. An epidemic of Chickenpox also kept the pre- school children from Chirch for several Sundays. However the teachers carried on faithfully and the Spring found the children coming back in good numbers.

The Children's Day Program was carried on by the teachers under the direction of Miss Barbara Wood in the absence of the Superintnedent .

The Fall quarter has been most encouraging. Children who were two years of age were admitted to the Nursery Class of three year olds and seem to be enjoying the activities. We have been pleased to have a number of children come regularly this fall who have entered the Sunday School for the first time although they have been residents of Brimfield for some yaers. The enrollment has been 71 and the average attendance 59 ..The classes have been so large that it has seemed wise to have two classes meet at the pars onage. In this way, each class has its own separate room and much more satisfactory teaching may be done.

Four teachers attended the Teachers' Training Classes held in the Second Congregational Church of [illegible] for five Monday nights this fall.

The church School has been especially interested and generous in their missionary giving . A ten dollar Care package of food was sent to a family in Germany and a grateful reply received. Also a fifteen dollar package of clothing , toys and candy was sent as our Christmas service project. The Church School contributed 77.10 in the coin cards used for missionary offerings, and sent [illegible] to the

New England Home for Little Wanderers together with boxes of food.

The regular Christmas parties were held for the different ages and a program and pageant were presented in the sanctuary on December 19th.

The Church School is grateful to Mr. Charles Deland who has been most willing to help with art work. He designed a lovely Christmas window transparency for Grades one and tow to make for their homes, and outlined a fine map which is being used by the Junior High Class in their study of the life of Paul.

We also appreciate the cooperation of the parents who help their children with Bible study and Church School homework.

Most of all commendation is due the staff of the school for their loyal service to the Church.

Nursery Class Teachers-- Miss Harriet Tarbell-- Miss Carolyn Hicks.

Kindergarten teachers-- Miss Evelyn Tulip-- Miss Julia Hicks.

Grades I and 2--Mrs. Ruth Parker -- Miss Lucinda Lawrence

Grades 3 and 4-- Mrs. Ruby Smith-- Miss Ruth Mac Connell

Grades 5 and 6-- Substitutes- Miss Shirley Hicks-- Mrs. Alice Belanger
Regular Teacher-- Mrs. Clarence Keith

Grades 7, 8, 9, Mrs. Ruth Manter- Mrs. Pearl Lindell

Secretary-- Mrs. Pearl Lindell

Treasurer--Miss Ethel Spooner.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Manter
Superintendent

Fidelis Group.

During the year 1948, the Fidelis Group has continued to share in Church and Community projects. It has given to the church anniversary celebration, the Red Cross, the Juvenile Drama Children's party, besides purchasing the Sunday School bibles and giving to Church expenses.

A new policy, of each member earning a sum of money one month during the year, has been instituted.

At the annual meeting in April our officers were all re-elected. Mrs Roe S. Clark is our president.

Respectfully submitted,
Katharine W. Ladd.
Secretary.

Jan 1948

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP

During the past year, the Pilgrim Fellowship, the youth group of The First Congregational Church, has held regular meetings on Sunday nights . The meetings include a worship service, discussion on a chosen topic, and a recreational period. At present the Pilgrim Fellowship has 16 members.

Throughout the year the group has taken part in other activities as well.

Several members conducted the Sunrise Service last Easter.

Many members participate in the choir and teach in the Sunday School.

During the summer, meetings were suspended. However the Pilgrim Fellowship had a meeting in the form of a picnic at Little Alum.

During the fall, several members attended Youth Rallies at Dudley and Sturbridge.

We also continued our plan of making favors for the hospitals each year at Christmas time.

The annual Youth Service was held December 12, with the young people conducting the morning service. The Installation of Officers was held at this time. Those installed were: President, Joann Matheson; Vice President, Lucinda Lawrence; Secretary, Evelyn VanHook; Treasurer, Barbara Kostoff; Program Chairman, Howard Brown; Social Chairman, Patricia Phifer.

The year's activities were concluded with the Christmas Carolling on Christmas Eve.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Matheson

President, Pilgrim Fellowship.

[illegible]

April 10 Today Sunday. There were two baptisms and six were received into Church Membership.

April 10 A special meeting of the Church was called to order following morning service by Moderator Clarence Brown to consider proposal of Board of Trustees regarding installation of a new heating plant and improved plumbing in the Church.

Images from fire hazard of present heating equipment, the inconvenience and inadequacies of plumbing situation in kitchen and toilets were reviewed.

Mr. Clarence Brown, as Chairman of Board of Trustees, outlined the following recommendations of that Board:

1. To construct a fire proof building at rear of Church
   To have adequate heating equipment.
2. To install suitable heating apparatus (a new oil furnace) to heat the whole building.
3. To install a gas heater so that water won't freeze and hot and cold running water will be available at all times.
4. To install new toilets, sinks, necessary plumbing and electrical connections.
5. Check [illegible] estimates were obtained and received from Henry Newton and William Cox [illegible] at no personal profit.

Furnace Room (to be [illegible], cinder block construction with fire-proof doors), [illegible] at.	$2,[illegible] —
Trellis	48 —
Sinks	100 —
Heating Apparatus	2,687 —
Electrical Work	60 —
Plumbing etc.	163 —
(approximate cost of ALL operations	$6,3[illegible] —

Motion made and seconded that Trustees be instructed and authorized to proceed with [illegible] as outlined by Trustees.

Following general discussion the motion was carried unanimously.

Action: Voted: That the Trustees of the First Congregational Church of Brantford be instructed and hereby authorized to proceed with the construction of an annex building to the Church.

Voted: That the Trustees be [illegible] and are hereby authorized to install oil fired, forced [illegible] and a

separate water heater in the parsonage building, two toilets in the main church building, and to make certain alterations to the church kitchen as may be necessary.

Motion made and seconded that Treasurer, with the approval of the trustees, be allowed to borrow a sum sufficient to cover the entire expense instead of cashing securities.

General discussion caught and the fact stated that we have outgoing up-grade securities which might be sold to bring the same at the market at present is on a downward trend; that the necessary amount may be secured from the bank at 3½%; that the securities held are yielding much more; and, if at some later time it is found advisable to sell these in a favorable market, the whole debt could be discharged in full.

Action Voted: That the Treasurer, with the approval of the Trustees be, and is hereby authorized to borrow such sum or sums of money on demand note or notes as may be necessary to carry out the construction, installation of heating equipment and toilets, and necessary alterations as may be required to complete the work authorized by this meeting and to give as collateral such securities, owned by the Church, and in such amounts as may be requested by the Trustees and by the lending agency.

Carried unanimously

May 25, 1949 A certified copy of the above ACTIONS was handed to the Treasurer May 25, 1949.

Delegates

Voted that Mrs. Harry Anderson be appointed as delegates to the Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church of Springfield on May 1, 1949

May 8 At a special Meeting held following the morning service, Mrs. Ralph Linden was elected as Delegate to the 150th. Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Congregational Conference and Missionary Society, to be held in Boston, May 14, 1918 at Old South Church.

May 9 Fifth Annual Mother & Daughter Banquet held with Mrs. Mary C. Peck of Northampton as Guest Speaker.

May 19 Under the auspices of the Epworth League, the Red Cross Concert featuring Kedroff and Vogan with his Singers & Soloist rendered a splendid program.

May 26 Rural Life Sunday was observed. Members of the Neighborhood Bridge were invited guests. $10.00 of the Love Offering was sent to the Rural Work Conference.

June 23 Children's Sunday. There were nine baptisms.

Oct 9 There were two baptisms.

Oct 23 Laymen's Sunday: "A splendid service under Mr. Charles E. Lund's direction was outstanding. Mr. Kelley's sincere exposition of "A Layman's Responsibility" and Mr. Bruce's interesting story for the Children carried messages which were greatly enjoyed and were most impressive. The willingness of some and the whole hearted cooperation of the eleven participating laymen made this fine program possible.

Oct 30 At a special meeting of the Church a letter of dismission was granted to James Harrington & homages his membership to the Bethany Street Methodist Church of Lynn, Mass. It was also voted to accept the following into our membership:

Dorothy Jones from Bethany Baptist Church of Lynn, Mass.

[illegible] Methodist Church of Northampton, Mass.

Ruby Smith from Congregational Church, Charlotte, N.C. gave evidence of confession of faith.

Nov. 8 The Fellowship Banquet was held, Rev. Andrew Seaton of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Springfield being the guest speaker.

Nov. 22 Springfield and Ballard Churches united in a thanksgiving service at Springfield. The collection $17.00 was given, as usual, to the Rev. Ingland Home for Little Wanderers.

Dec. 18 At a Special Meeting of the Church following the morning service it was voted that Evelyn, Robert, Jerrold and Roger Stone be granted letters of dismissal to the Second Baptist Church of Palmer, Mass.

Standing Committee Summary for 1949

Much thought and time has been devoted to the effort of increasing Church Attendance. The Attendance Chart, prepared by Mr. Deland records the results and will be most helpful in measuring future efforts.

In November an Attendance Committee was organized with Richard Brown as Chairman. Great confidence is placed in the ability of this group to accomplish a marked improvement in Church Attendance.

A Memorial Flower Chart has been maintained this year on which is listed the names of those who furnish flowers for the Sanctuary in memory of loved ones or in commemoration of happy events. It is hoped that more people will provide memorial floral tributes in the new year in order that more may be greatly appreciated. A note in the Church Bulletin will be forwarded to the Flower Committee serving at that time.

Furthermore, the Reading project with the Sponsorship of Vermont Press started in the Spring and really got under way in the fall of Mrs. Shepard's charming Reminiscences of many of the books on this Town reading list stimulated much interest and inspired those who heard the reviews to read many of the books as possible.

Regarding the Celebration fund for improving the Church at Thetford Center, which was considered at last year's Annual Meeting but on which no action was taken, it being left in the hands of the Pastor and Clerk to accept any donations and forward same.

Donations totalling $40.00 were made at the Annual Meeting. Since the fund did not advance as hoped that amount, the Standing committee requested the Trustees to authorize a $40.00 contribution, but this request was tabled. By April 1, however, five more donations, totalling $40.00 had been received and the $80.00 was sent to Miss Estelle Cutler with the following letter:

Knowing that the Church at Thetford is planning a Memorial in honor of the late Rev. Robert Sheard of his former friends in Bernfield felt that they would enjoy having a small part in this tribute to one whom they remember with fondest memories.

Since these names may be of personal interest to your Town, being those of Selma (Lawrence) Chamberlain, Charles and Gladys (Roy) Lord, Grace Linden, Mary Woods, Mabel Kirey, Hester (Linden) Stearns, Ethel (Lawrence) Spencer, Keziah (Lawrence) Weber.

I have been asked to forward the contribution to you to be used toward this Memorial.

Sincerely,
Ralph Linden, Church Clerk.

The following letter was received.
April 27, 1949 "Dear Mr. Linden: You handled with such the enclosed contribution to the stained glass meant a great deal to the members of our family at this Easter season.

Will you please convey to our friends in the Church our sincere gratitude for this expression of their appreciation of our father. We always treasured the friendship of Brimfield people.

The Thetford Church has plans for building a chapel in the not too distant future. This will include much needed Church School rooms. The funds will help if these rooms and we know it would be a great joy to Dad to have a real part in contributing toward the happiness of the Children of the Parish. Very gratefully yours, Loretta V. and Evelyn V. Estabrook."

Dec 30 — Annual Meeting —

The meeting was opened with a prayer, Scripture reading and Prayer by Mr. Manter, followed by another hymn. The meeting was then turned over to Church Moderator, Clarence Brown. 26 Members were present at the roll call. There were 13 responses for absent members. Church membership to date, 30 men, 81 women, a total of 111.112

Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting were read by Church Clerk, Evelyn Linden, and approved.

Treasurer's Report was read by Everett Linden ~~but not~~ filed. Mr. Linden outlined the budget for 1950. He also reported that the Church Books have not been audited for 1948, 1949, the reason being that the Church Auditor, George K. Hitchcock, simply does not have the time to attend to this matter.

A motion was made and seconded, that someone be appointed to audit the Church books for 1948 and 1949.

Action: Voted that Mr. Roger Bennett be appointed to audit the Church Books for 1948 and 1949.

Mrs. Benjamin recommended that Music Budget be made large enough to allow for hiring a soloist, occasionally, in order to vary programs.
No action, Moderator declaring that in the event

additional funds became necessary for such purpose that the Trustees should take the matter up with the Music Committee.

page 19 The Pastor's Report, read by Mr. Master, was accepted and filed with Clerk.

page 20 Laymen's Report was given by Laymen's Representative, Charles D. Land. Report was accepted. Mr. DeLand reports that the average Church Attendance during 1949 has been 61.

page 21 Church School Report, read by Mr. Master, accepted and filed with Church Clerk. Final report for 1949 tabulated. Average attendance 52.

page 22 Ladies Benevolent Society Report. Read by Mrs Lillian Brown, accepted, and filed with Church Clerk.

page 23 Cubs Scout Report: No report at this meeting. Patrol was dissolved, letter filed with Church Clerk.

Pilgrim Fellowship Report None.

Committee on Reading Project. Chairman, Edel Spooner, outlined briefly the purpose of the project and the type of books to be found in the 4 groups of selections. She reported that books, 7 readers have "qualified" by reading at least 1 Book from each of the 4 sections. The project seems to have stimulated considerable interest and it is expected that many more readers will qualify by April.

Trustees: No report.

Nominating Committee read by Edel Spooner.

Moderator	Clarence B. Brown
Clerk	Lewis B. Linden
Treasurer	Everett D. Linden
Asst. Treas.	Clarence Keith
Auditor	George K. Hitchcock
Trustee for 3 yrs.	Robert S. Clark
Deacon for 4 yrs	Frederick Russell
Church School Supt.	Ruth Master
Laymen's Representative	Charles DeLand
Music Committee	Members at Large
Pianist	Elaine Wright Alice Nathan

By vote the Clerk was instructed to cast 1 ballot for the slate of officers as read with the exception of Auditor.

Voted: To elect Roger Bennett as Auditor for 1950.

A vote of thanks was extended to Miss Hodge Keeler for restoring the two old chairs being used on the Meeting platform. The Clerk was instructed to convey this message to Miss Keeler.

In an effort to clarify the issue, a record from the minutes of the 1946 Annual Meeting was brought up for consideration. The record reads:
"Voted upon that the 3 elective members of the Standing Committee not to be reelected after 3 years, and also for the Trustees not to be reelected at the end of their term."
The point at issue being: If the record amends the By-laws, it should be recognized. And, if it is not desired to limit the term of office of Standing Committee Members and or Trustees, that a further Amendment remove the restriction.
The matter was tabled. No Action.

By vote the Clerk was instructed to notify all Organizations and Officers of the Church that Annual Reports should be prepared for presentation at the Annual Church Meeting and filed with the Church Clerk.

Meeting adjourned. Refreshments were served by Mrs Buckingham, Mr Curtis Conway, Mr Isabel Brown, and the Lady Whites.

Respectfully submitted
Evelyn B. Sanders, Clerk

Pastor's Report for Year 1949

Pastor's Report for 1941

There has been some real evidence of progress in the life of the First Congregational Church of Plainfield during the past year. This advance has been especially in the improvement of the Church building and to some degree in the attendance at the Church services. Now that we have a more convenient and comfortable place in which to carry on the work of the Church, it is hoped that it will then be in encouraging added interest in the services and activities of the Church, especially among the younger people

During the course of this year there have been a number of public services, the chief of which Mr. Roland will be able to give you an account of in the report of the activities of the Church.

1949 (Apr) In February the Bishop's visit was great and inspiring. On Easter Day we joined with the Bishop's Church and joined with them for the Service of Holy Communion. The members of the Brinfield Group were our guests on Rural Life Sunday, and the members of the Institute orders such prayers at the morning service on Memorial Sunday. National Sunday was long remembered service as they were last during the year. Harvest Communion Sunday was observed on the first Sunday of October. The service for the Harvest Festival was conducted by the Rev. Martin, assisting provided by Mr. Cole Keighley and the Rev. Spencer. Symonds' Sunday found me deeply grateful to the Spencer of the Church under the Ministry of Mr. Martin in performing many services. The message by Bishop Bailey of Hereford and other heads of the service taken by the men were an inspiration to all who attended the joint service. The dinner on Thanksgiving Day was held in the Brinfield Church and the offering was given to the Bishop's Home for Little Children. During the Christmas season the Church School gave very effectively a Christmas Pageant and Program in the Church. On Sunday evening, Dec. 18th, we observed Children's Day, the theme being "Christmas" by Dorothy Verda Wilson. This was given in an original manner, using the Children's Choir and the Senior Choir. The Christmas music was very beautifully rendered. Morning. Christmas is the occasion when the Church of Christ the Risen Redeemer, and Friends & the old Church of the Spencer, carry out a different program. Many other Sundays the Rector's Sermon was the Rector's, Lent, Advent, Trinity, Easter, Christmas, Harvest, Rural Life Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and the Rector's Sermon.

In August a fine concert was held in the Church [illegible] the Rector's Children of the Vicar; the Bishop's Sermon was given by the Rev. [illegible] and the Rev. Cyril Bailey, [illegible] by the Rev. [illegible]. The Concert was given for the benefit of the Church. [illegible] Church. The [illegible]

-ested my gratitude to you for this fine spirit of cooperation.

The year I took part in the baptisms of four children. Six couples were married by me in the year. I officiated at six funerals of people who were in [illegible] related to the church [illegible] their times [illegible] the community.

For a number of years the ladies of the Ladies Benevolent Society have been working toward the renovation of the kitchen. The problem of an all-year water supply confronted them and they began to celebrate with the Trustees. We see as the product of the labors of the ladies in a very fine and modern kitchen and the cooperation of the Trustees in an adequate heating plant and the installation of toilets. This effort will be enjoyed and remembered for a long time. It is not easy whether to give more credit to the ladies or the men, but it is certain that they cannot get along without one another.

Last year there was organized a Couples Club which meets monthly for fellowship and educational purposes. Through this group many fine couples of the Church and Community have learned to better appreciate Mrs. Hunter and are grateful for the opportunity it gives us for fellowship with them.

During the past year the Pilgrim Fellowship has been meeting especially at the Parsonage on Sunday evenings. Each month it is the plan of the group to meet with some other group outside of the community. The Youth Groups of Warren, Shutesbury, Wendell and West Brookfield have formed a union for this purpose, hoping that the young people will take charge of the morning service.

During two weeks in July a Vacation Church School was held in Amherst for the children of Brimfield and Holland. Forty-one children attended the school. The staff included Margery Wilson, Mr. Charlotte Lay Hodson, Mrs. Philip Benjamin, Miss Gladys Webber, Mrs. Ethan Hunter, Miss Nancy Colbroth, Mrs. Frances Hagar and the pastor. The school studied the mission work in Japan and China.

During the summer months we were fortunate in securing the services of Miss [illegible], [illegible] Allegheny, to lead Bible Class, supply the pulpit during the month of August when the pastor was absent on vacation.

In the course of few weeks I hope to be able to report the formal organization of the parish, which may receive a Mission Church of just as soon as found. I feel that with the blessing of the Allegheny Presbytery under the leadership of Rev. Richard Brown it is going forward in this thing. Quite a few have joined our church since coming here, and we have many inquiries as to the place of worship, and the time of services. We have 3 or 4 families, who have come from a distance to worship with us, and we hope to see them more frequently. In order to carry this work forward it will mean that we must get a few dollars more than we do at first, and we are trying to do our part in this direction. We hope to receive the aid of the Board of Church Extension, for the first year of our work, and we feel sure that we will be granted this favor.

We shall be very much pleased if you can see your way clear to grant us a Church Extension Appropriation, and we shall be very glad to see you at any time you may be in our vicinity.

Yours Very Truly,
Rev. Chas. E. Marler.

Annual Report of Brimfield Church School —

The Brimfield Church School found in many ways with the names of 70 children on its books. Counting it necessary for a child to attend at least half of the sessions to be considered enrolled there were 60 children enrolled and an average attendance of 52 from January through June. Considerable sickness made it impossible for the younger children to attend regularly during this period.

In September there were 91 names on the list, 72 enrolled and an average attendance of 62. The office [illegible] [illegible] 7 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Church School
Sept 1941

Teachers
Sec.
Nursery Class

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] — Jan — June
[illegible]
[illegible] Dept - Nov.
Nursery Class - Dec - May teachers for 1942.

Kindergarten
Grade 1 & 2
" 3 & 4
" 5 & 6
" 7, 8, 9

[illegible] Philip Cecil Mary Cockrell
[illegible], Lucille Lawrence
[illegible], [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] Jan - June)
Roger Bennett (Dept Sec) Boys

All the teachers expected to participate in the Children's Day Program - which was the Longest Week Jan - and all attended except the Nursery. This provided some of the things that has been happening this year. The great growth of the morning [illegible] was a large attendance.

All the Children's Christmas programs were very good, [illegible] were an [illegible], [illegible] Christmas [illegible] and a [illegible] of the [illegible] were led by grades 3 & 4 — [illegible] by a Cleland Family. The [illegible] of the [illegible] was organized & Choir Director assisted tho greatly with both the Children's Day & Christmas programs. Christmas parties were directed by teachers for the various classes.

The Church School continued as a Mite Box Board studying the various missionary [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] offering of the first Sunday of each month for missions. The following [illegible] were taken:

Social Center Offering for Missions (Hospital Puerto Rico)	8.—
Mite Box Commandments, à de	6.—
Items for Little Tenderness (Sent Overseas)	12.31
[illegible] packages for Home Family	6.42
General Missions	21.90
[illegible] offerings in [illegible] for [illegible]	21.05

Roll call cards were sent to [illegible] during the year by grades 3 & 4 and Christmas cards were made [illegible] & [illegible] for Christmas [illegible]

Church

[illegible] made and sent to King Memorial Hospital.

[illegible]

part 1949

[illegible] and the children have completed the work required of them in larger numbers than in previous years. It is hoped that [illegible]

goals toward which [illegible] Trumpeld Church School.

— Ruth Manter

Laymens Representative Report

Laymens - Representative - Report.

Average Attendance	61
Highest Attendance - Childrens Sunday	170
Easter Sunday	158
Memorial "	91
Christmas "	93
Laymens "	89
Palm "	85
Rural Life "	85

Charles T. [illegible] Jr.

[illegible]

January 1949 there were 47 regular members in the L.B.S. and 7 honorary members.

On Dec. 31, 1949 there are 51 regular members and 5 honorary members.

During the year 1 regular member moved out of the state, 1 honorary member passed away, 10 new members joined.

During 1949 the following suppers were served - profits as listed:

Mother Daughter Banquet	37.48
[illegible]	85.2[illegible]
[illegible]	36.42
[illegible] Cantata [illegible]	24.4[illegible]
[illegible]	7.[illegible]
Food Sale	21.45
Lawn Party (inc. proceeds from tables & Children's Fair)	207.75

For the first time (1949) we have been able to meet all our obligations in the missionary field as follows:

Hampden District Congregational Women	[illegible]
Walker Missionary Fund	5.[illegible]
[illegible] missionary [illegible]	25.[illegible]
Conn. Congregational Missionary Society	[illegible]

Second Mile Gift (Every Member of Church) 1.
War Victims 5.
Red Cross 5.
Grange Children's Halloween Party 5.
U.M. Children's Relief Offering 10.
General Expenses of Church 50.

We have sent missionary boxes to Schauffler School in Cleveland, Tessenden Academy, Ryder Memorial Hospital in Porto Rico, Sewing for Foreign Missions.

From the money set aside in the Kitchen Fund we have spent the following amounts toward renovating the Church Kitchen:

Cabinetry	$427.66
Deposit of Stove	244.50
" " Gas	14.75
" " Sinks	107.

Worn table silver was replated.

During 1949, of course, [illegible] we have had [illegible] to hear Rev. Hughes of Palmer, Prof. of Mrs. Illingworth, and Mrs. [illegible] Masters.

Foregoing is the report of the activities of the LBS for 1949.

Respectfully submitted
Alice M. Belanger, Sec.

Fidelis Report for 1949

At our annual meeting in April we elected the following officers:

Pres.	Mrs. Clark
Vice Pres.	Mrs. Brown
Treas.	Mrs. Tindall
Flower Fund Chairman	Mrs. Wilson
Sec.	Mrs. Todd

We have continued our practice of giving money to the Church, the Red Cross, and for the Children's Halloween Party. The group paid for the Sunday School Class.

Each member has [illegible] a living room [illegible] for a project shown. Our Sunshine Boxes continue to yield a surprising amount each year. The group is helping with the reading program by having one of its members act as librarian one Sunday each month.

Respectfully Submitted
Katherine H. Cook, Sec.

March 27 At a meeting of the Church it was voted to accept the following into our membership:

Albert W. Birchenough on Profession of Faith
May Carey
Robert Ernest McFain "
Barlow Walker "
Ella Walker "
Philip L. Bergman "
Gertrude Crosby on Reaffirmation "

E. B. Landen, Clerk

April 1 Voted to grant letter of dismissal to Lawrence Spencer to South Cong. Church, Litchfield, Mass.

E. B. Landen, Clerk

Jan 15 A special meeting was held to elect delegates to the Council of Congregational Churches to be held Jan 22 at Second Cong. Church, Holyoke, Mass. (Skinner Memorial Chapel)

Voted: Mary Mae Chase be and hereby elected as delegates to Council Installation of Rev. Jerry Wm. Trexler.
Clerk to notify Geo. L. Eastwood, Clerk, 2nd Cong. Church Holyoke of place and purpose of meeting.

E. B. Landen, Clerk.

Nov. 17 The Church received a check for $1000.00 bequeathed by Mr. William H. Peck. Receipt was acknowledged to Wm. H. Peck by Treasurer Everett D. Landen.

Quoting from Mr. Peck's will —
"I give and bequeath unto the Brimfield Congregational Church of Brimfield Massachusetts in memory of Florence Sherman Peck, the sum of One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00) to be used for such purposes of the Church as the Board of Trustees of said Church shall determine."

NEW ENGLAND METAL CULVERT CO.

ARMCO DRAINAGE PRODUCTS

FACTORIES
PALMER MASS
PORTLAND, ME

TELEPHONE PALMER 67

PALMER, MASS.

November 17, 1950

Dear Evelyn:

The Church has received the check for $1000.00 bequeathed by Mr. William H. Peck. I have acknowledged this receipt to Mr. Peck Jr.

So that your records might be complete, I am quoting from Mr. Peck's will:

> "I give and bequeath unto the BRIMFIELD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of BRIMFIELD, Massachusetts, in memory of Florence Sherman Pearsall, One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00) to be used for such purposes of the Church as the Board of Trustees of said Church shall determine."

This, of course, should become a part of your permenant records,

Sincerely,

Everett

Annual Meeting

January 5

Annual Church Meeting

The Annual Church Meeting held Friday, Jan. 5 at 7:30 P.M. in the Church Vestry was opened with the singing of a hymn, scripture reading and prayer by the Moderator.

Moderator, Clarence Brown called the meeting to order. At the Roll Call of members, 28 members were present, and 10 responses were read for absent members.

Clerk's Report p. 17

The minutes of the last annual meeting, held Dec. 3, 1949, were read by the Clerk and declared approved.

Treas. Rep. p. 38

The Treasurer's Report was read by Treasurer Everett Gordon, approved, and filed with Clerk.

Aud. Rep. p. 30

The Auditor's Report for 1950 was read by Church Auditor Roger Benhett, accepted, and filed with Clerk.

Trustees Rep. none.

No report made by Clerk of Trustees (Wm. D. Spencer) to be presented to Church. However, Clarence Brown, as Chairman of Trustees, reported that the Trustees have been very busy throughout the year. He stated that some improvements have been made in the parsonage, maintaining a new drain, and a septic tank, and repairs to the church roof. They had been very glad to grant permission, requested by the American Legion, to flood light the Church and are gratified that that event has been so successfully effective.

Pastor's Rep. p 30

The Pastor's Report, read by Mr. Hunter, was accepted and filed.

Ch. School Rep. p 33

The Church School Report, read by Mrs. Hunter was accepted and filed.

Laymen's Rep. p 34

The Laymen's Report, read by Laymen's Representative Charles De Land was accepted and filed. To illustrate his report, Mr. De Land displayed a chart, which he maintains, recording Church attendance for each Sunday. An interesting feature of this chart, which was started in 1949, is the use of a different color for each years record - making it easy to compare the rise and fall of attendance, Sunday by Sunday, over the years.

Music Com. Rep. p. 35

The Music Committee's Report read by Gladys De Land was accepted and filed.

L.M.S. p 35

The Ladies Benevolent Society Report, read by Rebecca Wells, was accepted and filed.

Fidelis p 37

The Fidelis Group Report read by Bertha Brown, was accepted and filed.

Pilg. Fell. none

The Pilgrim Fellowship had no report. However, activities of the Young People are included in the Pastors Report.

Adv. in Read. 37

The Advance in Reading Report, read by Chairman John Spencer, was accepted and filed.

Nom. Com. 28

The Nominating Committee's Report was read by the Clerk for Gladys Webber, Chairman, accepted, and filed. By vote the Clerk was instructed to cast 1 ballot for the slate of officers as nominated.

Elect. of Off.

Ballot was cast and officers declared elected by Moderator Brown.

Church Officers for 1951

Moderator	Clarence B Brown
Clerk	Evelyn B Landen
Treasurer	Everett D. Landen
Asst Treasurer	Clarence Keith
Auditor	Roger Bennett
Trustee for 5 years	Clarence B. Brown
Deacon for 4 years	Frederick Worby
Church & Land Supt	Ruth Hastie
Laymen's Representative	Charles De Land

Standing Committee Members at large
John Longo, Alice Mathison, Lillian Brown

OLD BUS:

The matter regarding "election of Standing Committee members after a three year term and Trustees after a five year term, which was tabled at the 1949 Annual Meeting, was brought up for consideration, but was again tabled without discussion.

New Bus:

Actions: 1 – Voted that a note of appreciation be sent to the American Legion for flood lighting the Church.

2 – Voted that the matter of TIME and OCCASION of flood-lighting the Church be left to the discretion of the Chairman of the Trustees, Clarence B. Brown.

3 – Voted that the Treasurer send out quarterly statements reminding pledgers of balances.

4 – It was moved and seconded that any group connected with the Church may hold card or dancing [illegible] the Church Vestry.
This matter was then voted upon by Closed Ballot. 29 votes were cast: 25 FOR, 4 against.

5 – A vote of thanks was extended to the Fidelis Group for providing the refreshments which will follow this meeting.

Suggested Amendments to the By-Laws

Mr. Manter presented suggested Amendments to our By-Laws:-

Art IV., Section 1. Shall be amended to read:
The officers of this Church shall be as follows:

Minister	Treasurer
Moderator	Auditor
Six Deacons	Clerk
Supt. of S. S.	Laymen's Representative

Board of Trustees (of which the Pastor and Treasurer shall be Trustees ex-officio and five elective members)

Standing Committee (of which the Pastor, Deacons, Clerk, Moderator, Supt of S.S., and Superintendent shall be members ex-officio) and three elected members.

Art. IV. Section 2:
All officers, other than the minister, shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the Church.

Two deacons shall be chosen each year to serve a term of three years. The present Board of Deacons will remain in office until the expiration of their terms.

No Deacon will be eligible to succeed himself until one year has elapsed after his expiration of office.

One Trustee shall be elected each year for a term of five years.

No Trustee will be eligible to succeed himself until one year has elapsed after his expiration of office.

All officers (except the minister, trustees and deacons) shall hold office for one year and until their respective successors are duly elected.

Discussion for and against the proposed amendments followed. Arguments in favor of them pointed out that an opportunity would be given to more members to participate in this phase of Church work and that, at present, there are several [illegible] qualified by [illegible] duties, [illegible] no opportunity under the present By-laws.
Objections were focused on the points pertaining to limiting the terms of office of Trustees and Deacons.

The suggested amendments were filed.

The Great Hour of Sharing

Mr. Manter reported that we have been requested to expand the 'One Great Hour' to 'The One Great Time of Sharing' in order to meet increasing world needs, and that the

suggested time for this sharing is throughout Lent.

Action: Voted that envelopes for this purpose be distributed on the first Sunday in Lent and collected on Easter Sunday.

Membership Jan 1, 1950	30 Men	81 Women	111 Total
Admissions:			
By letter	1	1	2
Conf. of faith	4	2	6
Reaff. of faith		1	1
	35	85	120
Removal:			
By letter	1		1
By death		2	2
To other faiths	1	1	2
Membership Dec. 31, 1950	33	82	115

Meeting adjourned. Refreshments served by the Social Group.

Respectfully Submitted
Evelyn B. Landers, Clerk.

Pastor's Report 1950

Pastor's Report for 1950

As we enter the year 1950 in the life of the First Congregational Church of Dunstable we find evidence of progress, but not sufficient to give us full satisfaction. Our church is situated in a growing community and it is our responsibility to see that the spiritual life of the community more than keeps pace with its numerical growth.

The report of the Clerk has shown that our membership has had a net increase of five. However, our church attendance does not reveal an equivalent rise. I would not say that the work of the Church is by any means confined to the Sunday Morning Worship, but, nevertheless I think we must admit that the attendance at this service does indicate the vitality of the Church. A real effort will be made during the coming months and, I hope, by the whole Church to strengthen the institution of Sunday Morning Worship. There are various ways of approaching this problem. More might be encouraged to have an active responsibility in this service of worship. Each of us should feel the responsibility of giving another a ride. Time to extend that invitation to attend. Let us all feel a concern in this matter during the coming year. I shall welcome any suggestions from you as to ways in which the morning worship can be made more meaningful and helpful to you.

During the year [illegible] and seven funerals. Mrs [illegible] have been active members of the Church and what they did will be long remembered. During the course of the year nine children received the ordinance of Christian Baptism.

During the year the Pilgrim Fellowship has been meeting regularly in the Parsonage on Sunday evening. At present the group has about ten members which is not nearly as many as it should be considering the number of young people in the community. They have attended the Greenwich Union Youth Rallies which continue every year and have been a member of a small union of youth groups including Warren, West Brookfield and Sturbridge which meets together five times in the course of the year. The Youth rally for which Brimfield was responsible was held in November at which Mrs. Harrison of West Brookfield spoke on Korea. At Christmas time the Pilgrim Fellowship was the nucleus of those who sang carols. They made favors to be placed on the trays to the hospital in Palmer at Christmas. Their President Miss Evelyn Van Nook attended the Pilgrim Fellowship Conference at Westhampton Academy last Jan. During this year the Pilgrim Fellowship has been observing monthly socials for the young people of the community. Both the Benjamins and Buchanans have been very helpful in chaperoning and assisting in these affairs.

During this Christmas season the people of the community and those who drive along Rte 20 have been made very much aware of the beauty of our Church due to the effective floodlighting. I feel that we should be grateful to the Chas M. Stratton Post #263 of the American Legion and I am sure that the Trustees Meeting will consider in some way to express its appreciation to that Post. If the expense is not prohibitive I feel that we might consider keeping the Church lighted at least more than two evenings each week.

Although the Church has been well in meeting its local budget we are not doing as well as we might hope in meeting our obligation to the Union and the District. I do believe that as your Treasurer's report will show, last year we participated in the One Great Hour of Sharing. This year we are asked to participate in what is known as the Great Time of Sharing. Our State Conference suggests that we use Lent as a time when we share sacrificially that the work among war victims, of reconstruction and of our chaplains may be assisted.

Pastor's Report During the year we observed many special Sundays. Youth Sunday was held with the Pilgrim Fellowship in charge and giving the sermon. Mr. James Wilson, Field Scout Executive, filled the pulpit on Boy Scout Sunday. The World Day of Prayer Service was held in the first Friday in Lent. The Maundy Thursday Service of Communion was held in the Holland Church. The Union Sunrise Service for Holland, Sturbridge, & Brimfield was held at the Hubbard Homestead on Tower Hill. The Ladies Benevolent Society served a fine Easter Breakfast following the service which was in charge of the Pilgrim Fellowship. Rev. J. Thurston Powell of Sturbridge brought the message. Rural Life Sunday was observed in May with the 4-H Club and Grange as special guests. The pastors & leaders of Sturbridge & Brimfield were special guests at the morning service, Memorial Day. Baccalaureate Services for Hitchcock Academy was held in the morning service the first Sunday in June. The Day Spring Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star from Monson were our guests on St. John's Sunday. The Ladies Benevolent Society served breakfast to our guests preceding the service. We enjoyed having the Alumni of HA with us the first Sunday in August, and Adam Cary of their number, Mr. Irwin Lunacity, bring the message. During the summer we were glad to have the following supply ministers, Rev. J. Thurston Powell, Rev. Stanley Heath, Rev. Benjamin Drew, and Rev. Richard Carleton. Vacation Week Communion Sunday was observed as usual and Harvest Sunday. Mrs. Irene Wright and Mrs. Elaine Wright arranged the beautiful harvest decorations. Mr. Wilfred Timber brought the message on Laymen's Sunday and was very ably supported by the men of the Church. A great deal of work was done by those in charge of the music and decorations for the Christmas service. Miss Fisher, Miss Cook, Miss Ballou & Miss Russell furnished very lovely decorations and the Junior and Senior Choirs, under the direction of Mrs. Benjamin and with Mrs. Brown at the organ added much to the service Dec. 17. We enjoyed the Cook minister on Christmas Sunday.

The Mothers & Daughters enjoyed a very fine illustrated address by Mrs. Betty Bacon Blunt at the Mother Daughter Banquet. The Father Son Banquet had a very fine speaker in Mr. Tony Kelly. The PTA furnished very fine meals for both of these banquets.

During the last two weeks of July, Vacation Church School was held in Brimfield for children of Brimfield and Holland. The Kindergarten Department of the Vacation School was held during the last two weeks of May. This successful school was made

Pastor's Rpt.

possible through the fine work of Mrs. Vesper, Mrs. Sharp, Lawrence, Mrs. Ben Hammond, Mrs. Frances Lambert, Mrs. Seth Martin, Mr. James Bagwell, Miss Nancy Galbraith, Mrs. Sharp Ward and Mr. Chas. McIntyre. About 60 attended the school including the kindergarten children.

As we look over the past year there is much that is gratifying. We Mantes and I very much appreciate those who have been giving of their time and devotion to the Church. The faithful work of the Church School teachers, those who provide the music, those who are members of the ladies groups, those who serve on the Standing Committee and the Board of Trustees, and those who find various ways of helping and spreading the influence of the Church should be remembered. Our Church will grow in power, not primarily because of its beauty, although we find much joy in its dignity, but because it is a consecrated working fellowship composed of people who are aware that its influence is strong or weak depending upon whether or not each one is ready to assume his fair share of the work and be in his place on Sunday morning and when called upon throughout the week. We look forward to greater accomplishments in 1951.

Rev. John G. Manter

Church School Report 1950

Annual Report of Brimfield Church School -

1950 opened in our Church School with 71 pupils enrolled and an average attendance of 49 for the months of January through June. In the Fall the school opened with 79 enrolled and an average of 56 in attendance from September through December.

The children presented a program on Children's Day entitled "We Learn About Jesus". Bibles were presented to pupils who had completed their 3rd grade in public school and certificates were given all pupils completing required work for their year's work.

In the Fall three teachers attended leadership training classes in Southbridge and a demonstration class in Church School teaching was conducted at the school with the boys and girls of the 5th & 6th grades participating. This conduct was

such as to make us very proud.

Church School Report 1950

Dec. 16 the school presented the annual Christmas program & pageant. Parties for the various classes were held during the month.

The children have continued to study missionary work and to carry on service projects. $38.88 was given for missions this year. This included Christmas gifts for American Indians in No. Dakota and for a family in Germany as well as money for missionary work and for the Home for the Wanderers. We did not give as much to missions this year as usual, partly because our special offerings were not planned for enough in advance so that the parents and children would have more time to save and plan. This mistake we will try to correct in the new year.

The following teachers have served faithfully & well.

Nursery: Ruby Smith, Lillian Brown, Asst.

Primary: Ruby Tait, Nancy Goldroth, Asst.

Miss Ida resigned at end of Nov. and her place filled by Lucinda Lawrence.

Grades 1 & 2 Fay Lindell (for June) Priscilla Hahn (July-Dec.)

Grades 3 & 4 Julia Hice

John Senege (boys) Mr. S. resigned Dec. 1st teacher for rest of year.

Grades 5 & 6 Jan Wakeley (for May) Ruth Manter (May-Dec.)

Grade 7 Fay Lindell

Grades 8, 9 & 10 Elaine Cole

Sr. Jr. Fay Lindell

Treasurer The Spooner

As we look forward to the new year we feel the need of more active interest in the Sunday morning worship of the Church by parents, thus making the Church and its teachings more important in the eyes of the children and deepening the religious life of the parents who are so important in developing the Christian life of their children.

Ruth Manter

Laymen's Representative Report

Report of Laymen's Representative

Church attendance figures tell their own story.

1949 Total 3321 Average 63.8

1950 " 3269 " 62.3

A drop of 1.5 per Sunday.

Since July attendance has dropped off and to counteract this

Laymen's Rep.

tendency, the Standing Committee has appointed a Committee of 15 (an Attendance Committee) who will in 1951, be feel sure, study the attendance situation and definitely increase Church attendance.

The Church (which includes those who attend) is vitally important, and may every single one of us support and encourage this Committee in attendance by attending Church personally and by inviting and encouraging others to attend —? May our slogan for 1951 be "Lets go to Church", and "take your troubles to Church — thousands leave them there"

Charles A. DeLand, Chairman

Music Committee Report

— Report of Music Committee —

The Music Committee this year was very glad to re hire Mrs. Philip T. Brown as Organist and Mrs Philip Benjamin as Director of Music for another year of service.

The Committee has assisted in gathering together the Chorus Choir several times during the year, and participated in the singing.

The Committee would like to recommend that a Junior Choir be organized to sing occasionally at the Church Service. Mrs. Benjamin is willing to take on the training of it, if all concerned will give their cooperation.

The Committee recommends that the sum of $10.00 be appropriated for the purchase of music during the year, with the understanding that any surplus will be carried over into another year; or that, if by the Christmas season a little more money is needed, it will be available.

Respectfully submitted
Charles A. DeLand, Chairman

L.B.S. Report

— Annual Report of Ladies' Benevolent Society —

On Jan. 1, 1950 there were 50 regular members and 6 honorary members in the L.B.S. On Dec. 31, 1950 we have 58 regular and 2 honorary members. During the year 4 honorary members have passed away.

This last year we have served the following suppers with profits as listed:

Mother/Daughter Banquet	$22.18
Alumni Luncheon	5.57
Alumni Banquet	145.62
Harvest Supper	25.—
Father/Son Banquet	27.30

W.S.C.S. Report

St John's Sunday Breakfast	34.35
Easter Breakfast	34.00
Lawn Party	117.93
Food Sale in February	17.77
Food Sale & Luncheon (Auction 11/28/50)	32.01

Our contributions in the Missionary Field consisted of:

$ 25.00 to Missionary Committee for Sewing
5.00 to Mass. Congregational Conference for retreat for ministers' wives.
16.00 do. Mass. Cong. Conf. Missionary Society
1.50 second mile gift
34.00 to Ying Memorial building fund
5.00 to Grange for community Halloween party for children
130.00 to Home Community Service (Grange) towards a record player for School music supervisor.
5.00 to Red Cross
10.00 to Cancer Fund

We have sent monthly boxes to the following:
Schauffler College in Cleveland
Meron Institute in Indiana
Fessenden Academy
Monson State Hospital
Egypt
Africa
India

At our regular meeting in April we held a Kitchen shower. At this time, many of the necessary smaller items were added by the members, and the larger items were added by the Kitchen Committee. During the summer Mr. Guy Newton presented the Church with a ventilating fan. We have sold Air-Fresh and received as a premium a new Coffee maker. In November, the members held a towel shower for the kitchen. We have purchased a new fire extinguisher for the kitchen.

A member of our group was named to the Community Youth Planning Committee.

We have taken the re-decorating of the Church Vestry as our project for 1951.

The Adventures in Reading Committee have reported 19 qualified readers, 11 of whom are members of the W.S.C.S.

We have revised our Constitution and By-Laws during the year.

We have been privileged to hear some fine speakers at several of our meetings. Rev. Keith Munson of Tabernacle spoke on "The New Age and the World". Mrs. Lou Wingworth of Worcester road as her subject "Fashions in Reading". Mr. Harry Red presented "Musical Novelties". Respectfully submitted

Edith M. Hill, Sec.

Fidelis Report

— Report of Fidelis Group, 1950 —

Much to our regret Mrs. [illegible] has resigned as Secretary of our group and will be missed very much.

The Fidelis has completed another year of service to our church. Even though we are not a large group we have given money for various causes among them the following:

Purchase of Bibles for Sunday School — 3
$50.00 to Church
10.00 to Red Cross
5.00 to Grange for Community Hallowe'en Party

We have helped with the Adventures in Reading.

We put on the luncheon, in March, for the Minister's Association Meeting when Mr. Hunter entertained.

Our group agreed to appoint an Altar Committee at Mr. Hunter's request. Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Chellgo were appointed to serve 3 months.

Our Sunshine Boxes were filled in January and netted us $3.00 each to be added to our treasury.

In April a new Altar Committee was appointed for 3 months, Mrs. Price and Mrs. Whitten.

At the various meetings during the year we have been working on a bed quilt which was completed in October. Chances were sold. The drawing was at the Post Office Oct. 11. Mrs Eleanor Clark Tousant was the winner.

Our next and last project for the year was making door decorations for Xmas which were very successful.

This completes the report of activities of the Fidelis Group for 1950.

Respectfully submitted
Bertha P. Brown
Sec. pro tem

Adventures in Reading Report

— Adventures in Reading, 1950 —

In April, the "Adventures in Reading" program (in this church) completed its first year with 19 qualifying readers reporting a total of 163 books read from the lists suggested by the state committee for this program. Several other readers reported, but had omitted one or more groups from their reading.

During this year the Bamfield Library has

Adventures in Reading

acquired several books on our lists by purchase or gift. A considerable number were borrowed through the State Lending Library. More recently, the Bundled Library has received growing privileges from the Smithbridge Library, and several books have been borrowed on special requests.

At the Church on Sunday mornings and at several L.D.S. meetings, books from the libraries, with a few loaned by interested friends, have been made available, especially for the benefit of those who cannot conveniently visit the library shelf. Mrs. Alice Belanger and Mrs. Retha Buckmaster have taken charge of this service, with occasional help from Mrs. Philip Weber, Mrs. Beatrice McConnell and others.

In December, Mrs. Illingworth gave another of her most interesting talks on new books. A number of those present took advantage of the cards distributed by Mrs. Alice Belanger to list books discussed which they would like to see available in our library. These lists were then combined and submitted to the Library Book Committee for their consideration.

Copies of the fall supplement to the annual reading list are still available. Requests for any other books desired, but not available in the library, may be made of Miss Drummond, Mrs. Belanger, Retha Buckmaster, or Ethel Spooner, and will be filled at the earliest opportunity.

Ethel Spooner, Chairman

I have examined the cash account and disbursement records for the calendar year 1950. Based on such examination made in accordance with accepted auditing procedure, it is my opinion that these records are true and correct.

I would recommend that in accordance with usual church practice a procedure be established whereby periodic statements of amounts received on Church subscriptions are rendered by the ~~Clerk~~ or Treasurer to Church subscribers.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger U Bennett

Auditor

REPORT OF THE TREASURER, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH, BRIMFIELD, MASS. January 5,1951

Attached hereto, is a statement of receipts and expenses for the year ending December 31, 1950. This statement shows a cash balance of $2237.16 and a net balance after deducting a reserve for Benevolence collections of $1908.41. The difference of $328.75 is payable in full to the Treasurer of the Massachusetts Conference.

One of two comments on the financial activities of the Church during the year are noteworthy. It is certainly gratifying that the receipts from pledges exceeded the budgetted figures and that all other items with the exception of benevolences, either amounted to or exceeded the estimated.

The item of $379.25 expended for Church alterations brings the total cost of this work to $6330.11. The original estimate for the project was set at $6000.00. Late in the year, the Trustees authorized a payment of $500.00 on the loan secured from the Palmer National Bank for this work which leaves an outstanding indebtedness of $5000.00

In November, the Church received the sum of $1000.00 provided in the will of the late Mr. William H. Peck of New York. This amount was given in memory of Mrs. Florence Pearsall Sherman, deceased and is for "the general uses of the Church". It is the intent of the Trustees to invest this amount at such time and in such manner to be most advantageous to the Church.

Omitting unusual income and expense items, as well as the amount already received on 1951 pledges, shows a net operation balance of $1111.41 against a net on December 31, 1949 of $909.38. This latter figure being the cash balance less accrued benevolence receipts. It appears that the cash position, as adjusted, shows an increase of roughly $200.00.

The budget for 1951, which all of you have seen, shows that receipts from pledges must be increased approximately 10%. In my opinion, this is a minimum as it is quite probable that investment income will shrink somewhat due to the recently revised corporate tax law.

Respectfully submitted.

Everett D. Landen, Treasurer

Everett D. Landen

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BRIMFIELD, MASS.

DECEMBER 31, 1950

Balance 1/1/50	1016.78	
Pledge Receipts 1950 a/c	2848.95	
Pledge Receipts 1951 a/c	297.00	
Plate Receipts	520.28	
Investment Income	1230.94	
Misc. Income	14.95	
Bequest - Wm. H. Peck	1000.00	
Benevolences Collections	236.25	
Spec. " "	92.50	
Insurance Refund	1.90	
Pastor's Salary		1800.00
Pastor's Travel Allowance		300.00
Pastor's Pulpit Supply		60.00
Organist Salary		212.00
Choir Director		212.00
Janitor		300.00
Light and Power		46.47
Fuel		345.97
Insurance		159.25
Parsonage Maintenance		83.76
Church Maintenance		84.60
Interest		183.64
Music		1.60
Church - Alterations		379.25
Payment on Alteration Loan - P. N. B.		500.00
Payment on Bal. 1949 Benevol. a/c		84.40
Payment on " " " Spec. a/c		23.00
Taxes - Lot - 2 yrs.		6.90
Membership Taxes - Conference		29.97
Pastor's Annuity Payment		40.00
Miscellaneous Expenses		169.58
	7259.55	5022.39

Cash Balance 12/31/50 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 2237.16

Less Accts. Payable Benevolence - - - - - - - - - 328.75

Net Operating Balance - - - - - -$1908.41

E. Landon Treas.

1951 At a special meeting following the morning service it was
March 11 voted to admit the following to Church Membership:
Mrs. Richard Allen by Reaffirmation of Faith
Miss Eileen Allen " Letter from First Baptist Ch. of Agawam
Miss Julia B. Fiske Profession of faith
Mrs. Nieva Macomber (Mrs. Frank) " Letter f. Presbyterian Ch. of Canada
Miss Joan Macomber " Profession of faith
Richard P. Treat " "
Evelyn Van Hook " "
Mrs. Joseph Van Hook " Reaffirmation of faith
Olive Weston (Mrs. Harry) " "
Harry Weston " Letter f. Park Cong. Ch. of Springfield
Alfred Wigglesworth " Reaffirmation of faith
Sarah Wigglesworth (Mrs. Alfred) " "
Evelyn B. Landen, Clerk

May 6 At a special meeting following the morning service it was voted to admit Carol Jean Wigglesworth by Profession of faith to Church membership upon Profession of faith and Barbara (Barbara) MacConnell ~~upon~~ by letter from
Mrs. Lyon Brown was appointed delegate to the State Conference to be held in Framingham May 13-15.
Evelyn B. Landen, Clerk

July 8 A special meeting of the Church was held following the morning service to act on the resignation of our Pastor and make provision for the choosing of his successor.
Everett D. Landen was elected Moderator to serve in absence of Clarence B. Brown.

ACTION: 1) Re: resignation of pastor: (Copy of letter on page 42)
Since Mr. Manter's decision was final, he having accepted another call before submitting his resignation, we had no alternative but to accept it.
A motion was made and seconded to
Accept Mr. Manter's Resignation, with Deepest Regret.
The motion was voted unanimously, and the Clerk was instructed to notify Mr. Manter.
2) Re: provision for the choosing of his successor:-
There was general discussion of the various ways in which a Pastoral Committee could be appointed. Suggestions contained in the booklet "Choosing a New Minister," published by the Dept. of the Ministry of Congregational Christian Churches, were outlined.
Realizing that the selection of members to form the Pastoral Committee should be given very careful consideration so that a thoroughly representative group could act for the whole membership —

Action | A motion was made and seconded that the Moderator appoint a Committee to choose a Pastoral Committee. Motion was carried.

The Moderator then appointed the Standing Committee to nominate a Pastoral Committee.

Letter from Miss Georgia M. Francis of Rutherford, N.J. was read. Miss Francis, who is 84, offers to give our Church a book of sermons published in 1797. These sermons were written by her great, great grandfather, Nehemiah Williams, and delivered in Brunfield while he served as pastor of this Church 1795-97. Also interesting is the fact that her great, great grandmother supplied the pulpit, for a while, following her husband's death.

The offer has been accepted with sincere appreciation.

Evelyn B. Landers, Clerk.

July 15 A special meeting of the Church was called to order, following the morning service, by Moderator Clarence B. Brown.

Report of Standing Committee, nominating members of a Pastoral Committee, was read by the Clerk.

Nominations for Pastoral Committee:-

Everett D. Landers
John Senigo
Alice Matheson
Frederick Hosby
Helen Benjamin

Moderator Brown and Clerk Evelyn B. Landers to be members ex-officio

ACTION:

It was moved and seconded to accept the report of the Standing Committee and to appoint these members as a Pastoral Committee. Motion was carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Evelyn B. Landers, Clerk.

Resignation of Rev. John G. Mentzer

June 24, 1951

Dear Friends:-

I am extending my resignation as pastor of the First Congregational Church of Bemfield to take effect September first, or earlier if a successor is found, to be at Desert Kargestanish.

Both my family and I have greatly enjoyed the years we have lived among you. I am sure that we shall look back on them as among the happiest of our lives. You have taught us much as we have sought to deepen and strengthen the spiritual life of the Church and the Community. I wish to express my appreciation to all of you who have given your time, talents and prayers to the work of the Church during the seven years I have tried to serve you.

I hope that the year ahead will be a time of outstanding spiritual growth and enrichment for the Church and for each and everyone of you as individuals. (Although I go to another pastorate, I shall be interested and pleased to learn of every year you have made.)

Faithfully your pastor and friend,
(Signed) John G. Mentzer

Acceptance:

July 10, 1951

Dear Mr. Mentzer:

This is to notify you that, as we have accepted your resignation as our pastor, we accept with deepest regret, to be effective September 1, '51.

By vote of the Church, July 8, 1951

Sincerely
Evelyn B. Landen, Clerk
First Congregational Church of Bemfield.

Farewell Reception

A farewell reception was held in the Church Parlors, August 24, 1951, to which the members and friends of the Bemfield and Lyttleford Churches were invited. Rev. Chairman, Frank Barry. Welcoming Charles Ward. Collation & Gifts John Lewis. Refreshments $193.

"Supplies" August 5, 1951 — Rev. Horace G. Robinson
August 12 — Rev. Austin W. Guild
August 26 — Rev. Richard Carleton
September 2 — Rev. Harold Bentley as Interim Pastor.

9/2/51 On Sept. 2 a special meeting of the Church was called by the Clerk for Sept. 9, following morning service to take action on:—

1 - Increasing the pastor's salary
2 - Repairing the parsonage.
3 - Election of a Sunday School Superintendent.

9/9/51 At the Special meeting of the Church held Sept. 9, Moderator Ralph Brown presided.

Mr. Brown reported, for the Trustees, that they had met at the parsonage with Mr. Robbins, a local contractor. They had decided upon the extent of necessary repairs and improvements and Mr. Robbins had given a rough estimate of the cost. He then submitted a motion prepared by Mr. Ross Clark:—

"To authorize and instruct the Treasurer, with the approval of the Trustees, to execute a mortgage on the Parsonage Property not exceeding $1500.00 for the purpose of renovating, painting, and otherwise improving said property".

Although Mr. Brown stated that according to our Constitution the Trustees could not proceed to get estimates for doing this work until such action was taken, no member present was willing to make such motion. In the general discussion which followed it was pointed out that:—

1 - Kitchen jobs done by men are not usually designed by the women who must work in them.
2 - That the advice of Extension Specialists for community planning is available at no charge.

"Motion:" Moved that we avail ourselves of the service offered by the Extension Service. Mr. Birkenough to contact the Department requesting that someone be sent to review the situation and make suggestions for community planning. (Motion by Mrs. Charles Belknap, seconded by Fred Foster)

Further discussion brought up the following questions:—

1 - Would 1500.00 be adequate to cover all necessary parsonage repairs?

2:- How much, if any, of the Church funds are available for such use?
The Treasurer was not present and no one present had satisfactory information regarding the extent of available Church funds.

Action — It was voted to postpone action on the question of securing a mortgage on the parsonage until we have definitely the extent of repairs to be made — have a definite estimate of the cost — and know what Church funds are available. (Motion by Mr. Charles L. Land, seconded by Sgt. Eckman)

Action — Voted that Trustees be requested report regarding extent of repairs and improvements to be made in the parsonage — kind of work — and status of available Church funds, three weeks from today (Sept. 30)

Action — Mrs. Teresa Nacumber was elected Sunday School Supt for the remainder of 1951 upon the recommendation of the Stabling Committee.

Action postponed — It was voted to increase the pastor's salary a possible $30.00 per year. The additional amount may be designated to cover certain expenses to and from the Conference of the pastor.
(Present salary $50.00 plus $300.00 for transportation expense. Total paid to pastor $2100.00. Increase shall bring total amount to be paid to pastor, $2400.00)

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Mrs Harley H. Landers, Clerk

Sept 30 — A special meeting of the Church Members was called by the Clerk for Sept. 30, following morning service to receive and act upon the report of the Trustees, extent of repairs and improvements to be made in the parsonage, kind of work and status of available Church funds

Sept 30 Moderator Parson presided at the special Church meeting, called by Clerk on Sept. 23.

After briefly reviewing the situation, previous action taken, etc., Mr. Parson stated that he had contacted Mr. Boston, of Extension Service, concerning the best consultants obtainable for community planning, and that Mr. Hayes had been recommended. Also that Mrs. Haynes and Mrs. Herbert Wright of the Ladies Benevolent Society had met at the parsonage to review the situation, and that Mrs. Haynes' recommendations had been considered by the Trustees in making their report. Bids for the work have been obtained from Ted Fleton (carpentry) and Luther (painting etc.)

Mr. Clark reported that bids to date have totalled $1,[illegible]00. It is intended to paint the exterior, 2 coats, repair chimney, porch, possibly some plastering. He then made the following motion:

To authorize and instruct the Treasurer with the approval of the Trustees to execute a mortgage on the Parsonage Property, not exceeding $1600.00, for the purpose of renovating, painting, and otherwise improving said property.

The motion was seconded by Everett Landon. Discussion followed. Treasurer Landon reported that although we have $2,[illegible] invested funds which are available, that at present these securities are earning in excess of the 3½% interest which we would have to pay on the mortgage, and he advised that the investments remain.

Mr. Lings reported that Mr. Lings inspection of the heating system shows it to be in good condition, was sufficient but probably needed repairing. Mr. Landon suggested a possible way of providing additional heat for the kitchen by having pipes convey heat under the floor, and though there is no cellar.

Mr. Wright stated that plans included securing stove, refrigerator, and counter, and sealing doorway to attic.

Spec. Meet. 9/20 cont.

It was the general opinion that $1600.00 would not be a sufficient amount to cover expenditures.

The motion was proposed to be increased to $2,000.00 by Everett Landers. Mr. Clark accepted the amendment.

The motion, as amended, was carried.

Requests from Rev. and Mrs. John E. Manter for letters of dismission to the Somerville Union Church were presented by the Clerk.

Action It was voted that letters be granted to Rev. and Mrs. Manter.

An invitation from the Local Congregational Church of Springfield, to send a delegate to the Installation of Associate Minister Rev. Arthur C. Weiss, on October 4, was presented. Inasmuch as no delegate could be found, no action was taken.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Miss Hartley N. Landers, Clerk.

Oct. 7 World Wide Communion Sunday observed
Oct. 19 Harvest Supper in Vestry.
Oct 20 Two weddings at Church: 2 and Bellanger at 11 A.M. at 4 P.M.
Conducted by Interim Minister Rev. Harold Bentley
Nov. 10 Father & Son Banquet in Vestry.
Nov. 21 Annual Thanksgiving Eve Service in Comfort Church
Chorus Bell Choir. Chairman Mr. John C. Bennett
brought the Thanksgiving message. Collection for New England Home for Little Wanderers. Music by Bell Choir. Solo by Albert Birkenough. Mrs. DeLand at the organ. Mr. DeLand reported that it was very gratifying to find everyone so willing to assist in planning for this service. The response was wonderful - not a single refused - all who participated expressed themselves as glad to do so. Mr. DeLand stressed that all credit for this fine service was due to those who took part from Arthur D. Bradley of Holland House and Chorus through to Spencer. The meeting through Harry Newton, Alfred Wigglesworth, Clarence Keith, Philip Benjamin, Mrs. DeLand, Albert Birkenough, Deacons Moore and Norton, the Holland Choir and the Bell Choir. 144 attended this service and the collection totaled $37.57

Dec. 1 Rev. Rufus W. Miller preaches as Candidate.
A special Church meeting was called for Dec. 9 to take action on hiring a pastor.

" A special meeting of members was held to authorize letter of dismission to Clarence (Barney, Lewis) Howard. Mr. Howard planned Thursday, Nov. 29, requesting a letter so as to be able to join the Easthampton Congregational Church on Dec. 1. Under the circumstances the letter was sent by the Clerk on 11/29. Special Delivery.

Dec. 1 It was voted to authorize the Letter of Dismission to Mrs. Howard
(Moderator Brown did not remain for meeting)

Dec. 9 The meeting called on 12/2 to act on hiring a pastor was opened with prayer by Rev. Rufus Miller, who then retired. Moderator Brown presided. Report of Pastoral Committee was read by Chairman of the Committee, Arthur D. Bradley, of Holland.

The report of the Pastoral Committee was accepted.
Dec. 18 (see page 54.
The Pastoral Committee presented the following motion:-
That Rufus W. Miller be called as Minister of the Brimfield and Holland Churches, upon completion of alterations at Brimfield parsonage, salary of $3,200.00 per annum (Brimfield 2400.00, Holland 800.00) to be paid semi-monthly (15th and last day) with four (4) weeks vacation. Free use of parsonage in Brimfield and moving expenses to Brimfield to be provided. This relationship may be terminated by a two (2) months notice, either by Minister or Churches. Ordination to be arranged as soon as possible after arrival in Brimfield.

Motion was seconded by Charles D. Ford. Discussion centered upon the inadvisability of the Church in the matter of parsonage repairs since the date of starting pastoral duties, hinging upon completion of the work. Mr. Coolen stated that Mr. Coolen had promised to be ready to start work on Monday, Dec. 17.

It was decided to take an informal vote by closed ballot. Clarence Keith and were appointed tellers.

Dec. 9 Cont.

35 Votes were cast.
34 Yes 1 No

A motion was made by Alice Matheson and seconded

"That this vote be the FORMAL vote."

Motion carried.

Clerk was instructed to issue the Call to Mr. Miller.

Further discussion followed regarding possible ways to speed the Trustees in taking necessary action to get the parsonage work not only started, but finished. It was pointed out that two months had elapsed since the Church voted (9-30-51) to have this work done and that the Trustees have been dilatory in attending to the matter of parsonage repairs. The only Trustee present at this important meeting, Raymond Madden, was Mailed to Clarence Brooks. Since work will not be started until Dec. 17, it was roughly estimated that Feb. 1 would be the earliest possible date to expect completion.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Marilyn B. Landen, Clerk

The Call

December 14, 1951

Dear Mr. Miller:-

As the clerks of the Brimfield and Holland Churches, we are pleased to inform you that at duly called meetings of our Churches held December 9 and 13 respectively, it was voted to extend to you a Call to become the pastor of our Churches upon completion of alterations at the Brimfield parsonage.

It was also voted to confirm the arrangements proposed to you by our Pastoral Committee as conditions of this Call, these arrangements

being $3,220.00 salary per annum to be paid semi-monthly, payments being made on the 15th and last day of each month, with four (4) weeks vacation. Free use of the parsonage in Brimfield, and moving expenses to Brimfield will be provided. The matter of Annuity Fund dues will be taken up at the regular Annual Meeting of the Churches later this month. Plans for your Ordination will be arranged as soon as possible after you arrive in Brimfield. It is further understood that this relationship may be terminated by a two (2) months notice either by the minister or the churches.

With keen anticipation of a successful pastorate which we receive your vision shared by the members of the congregation.

Yours cordially
(Signed) Mrs. Harry H. Landon, Clerk
Brimfield Congregational Church

(Signed) Mrs. Arthur B. Bradley, Clerk
Holland Congregational Church

Note: Holland voted unanimously to call Mr. Miller at a meeting on December 13, 1951.

Acceptance

December 3, 1951

Dear Friends:-

I have received and now accept a call to become the pastor of your Church.

The conditions outlined in your letter are very satisfactory. I will await further information from you concerning the beginning date of my services.

May our coming together have been directed by the Spirit of God and may His presence bless all our future efforts.

Cordially yours
(Signed) Kaylor N. Miller

Dec. 14 The Junior Christmas Program; Pageants, music, and exercises by the Sunday School were presented in the Church at 7:30 P.M., followed by an old-fashioned Christmas Tree with Santa in the Story. Children from the Holland Church were invited. Refreshments were served to all at the end of the evening.

Dec. 22 The Adult Christmas Program: The Mayflower Club presented "The Christmas Story", a Candle Lighting Service, and special musical program in the Church at 7:30 P.M. Music was furnished by Christmas music on the harp, bells, and violin.

Dec. 14 The Annual Meeting was called for Dec. 28th. The proposed Amendments to be voted were read at both services (Art IV Sect. 1 and 2)

Dec. 28 The Annual meeting of the Church was held in the Vestry at 7 p.m. Moderator Brown presided. 71 members were present for the roll-call. Responses were read for 8 of the 71 absent.

Regarding revision of membership list. The clerk's report that no names have been voted from the Active Membership list since 1944 = that the Standing Committee at December meeting had recommended striking names in accordance with process outlined in Ref. to Art III - Sec 2: "It shall be competent for the church by vote to drop from the roll the name of any member whose whereabouts cannot by diligent search be ascertained or who has permanently and without good cause deserted himself from the church -- such names to be recommended to the Church by the Standing Committee and the Clerk." -- That a special circular accompanying our Annual Report to the Boston Office emphasized that INACTIVE members, although still legally members of the Church should not be included in the reported membership. The clerk, therefore, recommended a thorough screening of the membership list at this time so as to establish a more accurate list to report for Year Book - and - before rather than after the new minister assumes his duties with us so that the reported decrease in membership would in no way appear to reflect upon his ministry. Treasurer Fowler reported that the Fin. report had already

to about 27th for reported membership)

Action — Motion by Mr. Charles DeLand that Standing Committee recheck the membership list and report recommended names to be placed on an "Inactive List" at an adjourned session of this meeting. Motion was seconded and carried.

Reports Clerk — Minutes of Annual Meeting held Jan 5, 1951 were read by the Clerk and approved.

Treas. p. 60 — Treasurer Everett E. Gordon read a report for the eleven months period Jan. to Nov. 30, 1951, and stated it was impossible to make a final report until after Dec. 31. As soon as final report can be completed it will be filed with Clerk. The eleven month report was accepted.

Checking — Trustee Roger Bennett will audit the church books as soon as Treasurer completes his report and will file same with Clerk.

Payments Rep. p. 55 — Engineer Representative Charles DeLand read his report which was accepted and filed with Clerk.

Trustees — No written report. Moderator Brown called upon Mr. James Lash. Mr. Lash stated that he expected the Clerk of Trustees Mrs. Spencer would have been prepared with his report. While he had prepared no report he pointed out that work at the parsonage had progressed rapidly since the middle of December, that the carpenters will be through in two more days when the painters will start their work on the inside. Mr. Miller has been requested to come and select wall-paper, linoleum, and decide on color of paint etc. The Trustees have held a number of meetings throughout the year. The church steeple was painted during the summer. The wood on the steeple being new required painting again for protection. The inside of the cupola had been covered with wire to keep the birds out.

S.S. Supt. — Mrs. Vera Macomber and Mrs. Martin read a report for Jan.-June 1951, and has come report Sept.-Dec. 1951.

p. 55-57 — The reports were accepted and filed with Clerk.

Pilgrim Fellowship p. 57-58 — Pilgrim Fellowship report was read by Mr. Eichenough, accepted, and filed with Clerk.

Motion — Motion by Roger Bennett that Mr. Eichenough's request for $100.00 to be used for Pilgrim Fellowship expenses be granted was seconded by Everett Landon. Motion was carried.

Sch. p. 59 — No report, but it was promised that one would be presented later.

Finance Comm. p. 59 — Report read by Betha Brown, accepted and filed with Clerk.

Music Comm. — The Music Committee report was read by Chairman Mrs. Charles DeLand and accepted.

Mrs. Benjamin read her letter of resignation as Director of Music, stating that the Music Committee knew nothing of her intention.

Motion made by Alfred Higginbotham to table action, at this time, was seconded and carried.

Sec. in Reading p. 59 — Chairman Ethel Sawyer read report for "Volunteers in Reading". Report was accepted and filed.

Nom. Com. — Philip Benjamin read the report of the Nominating Committee (Benjamin, Bartenhart, Charles Behrend). All 1951 officers were renominated ~~and~~ as was the retiring Deacon. The Committee felt that those who had been serving might be more helpful to the new ministers. As there was no retiring Trustee to be returned to office, it was the wish of the Committee that ~~upon~~ nominations be made from the floor for this important office.

The report was accepted.

Motion was made by John Scungo that the proposed amendments to the by-laws be voted upon before election of officers.

Everett Landon moved that the matter of the proposed amendments to by-laws be tabled and that a Committee, not to exceed 5 members, be appointed to study the by-laws for general revision and submit proposed amendments to the Church within a maximum limit of 3 to 6 months

and that in one of these amendments the date of the Annual Meeting be changed to a more suitable date.
Motion was seconded by Percy Moore.

An amendment to the motion by the Clerk that all Church Officers be named ex-officio of this Committee of 5 was accepted by Mr. Landon.

An amendment made by Roger Bennett that the Committee report back to the Church at a Special Meeting prior to March 15 was accepted by Mr. Landon.

Considerable discussion regarding the necessity of having more Deacons immediately followed.

Action Com. on By-law revision

It was finally voted:- unanimously that the proposed amendments set forth for consideration at this meeting be tabled and that a Committee not to exceed 5 members with all Church Officers members ex-officio, be appointed to study the by-laws for general revision, and that the Committee report recommended amendments, including a change of date of Ann. Meeting to a more suitable date, to the by-laws at a Special Church Meeting prior to March 15, 1952.

It was voted to appoint the Committee from the floor. The following were nominated:-
Roger Bennett, Jim Scrigo, Alice Matheson, Philip Benjamin, Charles DeLand.
It was voted that nominations be closed.
Voted that the Committee on By-law revision consist of the 5 nominees.

Elect. of Officers

Mr Charles DeLand moved that the Clerk cast one ballot for list of officers presented by the nominating Committee. Motion seconded & carried. Ballot was cast and slate of Officers with exception of Trustee declared elected by Moderator Brown.

Mr DeLand then moved that the office of Trustee be left vacant until after the Committee on by-law revision made recommendations regarding this ~~office~~ Board. It was pointed out, however, that our present by-laws called for election of a Trustee at the Annual Meeting, whereupon Mr. DeLand withdrew his motion.

It was voted to elect a Trustee from the floor. Lucy Moore nominated Roger Bennett. Nomination was seconded but declined by Mr. Bennett.

Charles DeLand was nominated and seconded.

Elect. of Trustee It was voted that nominations be closed. Voted that Clerk cast ballot for Charles DeLand as Trustee from Jan. 1952 - Dec. 1956. Vote was cast and Mr. DeLand elected.

Church Officers for 1952

Moderator — Clarence B. Brown
Clerk — Evelyn B. Landers
Treasurer — Everett D. Landers
Collector — Eugene Keith
Auditors — Roger Bennett
Trustee for 3 years — Charles DeLand
Deacon for 3 years — Lucy Moore
Church School Supt. — Vida Macomber
Congregational Representative — Charles DeLand
Standing Committee, Members at large
John Sinigo - Alice Matheson - Lillian Brown

Resig. of Dir. of Mus. The matter of Mrs. Benjamin's letter of resignation which was tabled, again was brought up for reconsideration.

It was voted that Mrs. Benjamin's resignation not be accepted by this body, and that the Music Committee be authorized to obtain necessary music and talk the situation over further with Mrs. Benjamin.

Officers The Rev. Mrs. Albert E. Finkenough were elected as Advisors for the Pilgrim Fellowship.

Dir. in Rel. Chair. Miss Lorraine was elected Chairman of the Adventures in Reading project.

Pastoral Com. Since through over-sight it was not voted to accept the report of the Pastoral Committee at the Special Meeting held Dec. 9 — it was voted to accept that report at this time.

Refreshments were served by the Deacons following the Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully yours,
Evelyn B. Landers, Clerk

Reports

Laymen's Representatives

Report of Laymen's Representatives

During 1951 the most encouraging event has been the genuine interest displayed by the Laymen of Bemfield in the Church and its work. This interest was particularly active during the absence of a minister - when different Laymen have done so many fine things for the good of the Church. At the Thanksgiving Eve Service the laymen showed very noticeably their interest and devotion to the Church. This interest and devotion is not to be underestimated and should be a source of great pleasure to the members of this Church.

(Signed) Charles A. McLeod Jr.

S.S. Supt.

Sunday School Reports

The Bemfield Church School opened in 1951 with 69 children enrolled and for the months of January to June the average attendence was 45.

Three teachers meetings were held during this time with the following subjects discussed: Teaching Children to Pray, the Making of Rest and Letters in Home and Church, and planning for Children's Day. Teachers also met with the Superintendent for individual conferences.

We gave our usual monthly missionary offerings and a special Lenten offering was used for Church Schools around the world.

On Children's Day the program presented was direct around the theme "We Learn from the Bible". Each class told some of the things they had studied in the Bible or about the Bible. Bibles were presented to 10 children and the majority of the children received certificates of promotion or recognition, indicating that they had completed their year's required work. We are happy to have parents well represented in the congregation.

In presenting this report at the close of my year as superintendent of the Bemfield Church School, I should like to say that I have sincerely enjoyed

Report is working with the children and young people of the Brimfield Church and have appointed the five Cooperating heads of the church school teachers. My thoughts and prayers will often be with the faithful staff of teachers as they work together and seek to interpret the teaching of Christianity.

Respectfully submitted
(Signed) Ruth Manter

Congregational Sunday School Report Sept - Dec. 1951

Sept. - Dec. 1951

Our Sunday School opened Sept 23 with 7 teachers and 69 pupils enrolled. 45 in attendance. We have had a 65% attendance on the whole.

The same course of study has been followed this fall that Mrs. Manter had used. "Christ Speaks Today."

Teachers meeting is held once a month, usually the second Thursday of every month. Five teachers and Supt. attended the Teachers Institute in West Warren every Monday night for four weeks starting in October and ending the first week in November. Each teacher took the lesson pertaining to his or her class work. We all found the classes very helpful.

Material for sand boxes has been donated by Mr. Kenney, and the boys of the Pilgrim Fellowship are waiting to get started on putting them together now that the fall rush is over.

An excellent response to our Thanksgiving offering was cheerfully given. $7.33 was sent to the New England home for Little Wanderers with 50 or 60 bags of good things to eat. Our Christmas program is cheerfully led by Mr. C. H. Brown who made a special trip to do so this year. We extend our thanks openly.

Our box for Kansas City got to be sent due to the fact we have to attend the address. Other missionary funds have been taken care of as usual. The first Sunday of every month is Mission goes to missionary.

On December 16 an old fashioned Christmas was presented with entertainment by the children themselves. Too much to thank Mr. Randall of Holland for being Santa Claus. We would like to thank the Church at this time for the $15.00 given to purchase the candy for the children. Miss Hatch was very generous

1957
Reports

in giving us the candy at wholesale. Although the weather was very stormy, but we were happy to say we had a grand turn out of 59 children and the adults we did not count but probably approximately over 100 in all attended!

We hope to open the new year with a new enthusiasm to improve our classes of the Fall sessions and go forward with a stronger team to keep our Sunday School growing.

Respectfully Report. (Ethel Spooner)

Church Supplies	50.70	
Hall supplies	39.86	
Offerings (First Sundays held for missions)		16.77
Thanksgiving Offering (WSCSW)		7.35
Other Offerings (Used for winter supplies)		41.47
Total Collections received		0.24
Spent		101.3
Cash on hand 1/1/58		14.93

Respectfully submitted
(Signed) Vera Macumber

Pilgrim Fellowship

Pilgrim Fellowship Report

The Pilgrim Fellowship is the young people group which meets in the Church Vestry Sunday Evenings for a program of worship and discussion. The group is too large to meet around at different homes. We have 21 members with a usual attendance of 14-18 members. Mrs Vera Macumber has given considerable time and help to our Fellowship.

Fourteen young people attended the Cornwall Union Youth Rally in Kingston and received a plaque for the largest percentage of membership present. Parents and interested persons provided transportation.

Our worship service includes sentence prayers by each person present and scripture reading, hymns, a prayer, readings from the Upper Room, programs provided in the Pilgrim Fellowship Kit, and discussions in general. Also we have social half hours after each meeting sometimes with refreshments, sometimes with games and planned recreation - such as the Young Couples Social held once a month in the Church Vestry - Caroling on Christmas Eve - Skating Party etc. Many Fellowship groups had made up a song for their particular group and sang these at the rally. We have now written a song for our group. Christmas Eve the group and their guests [illegible] Mrs Spooner [illegible] the [illegible]

services to take the group around town. We have held two socials.

With the collection we take up each meeting and it means much to our Epworth League. Conference with Epworth plan and carry on the work of the Church Fellowship.

The Young People are learning to be Christian in spirit and learning that Christian Life and Life does not belong in two separate compartments.

Weekly we usually pay a few expenses, to date $1.50 for material, $1.15 for records for socials, $1.30 for subscription for the year and $1.00. Therefore we would like to ask to have $1.00 appropriated to use for expenses in Young Fellowship work.

Respectfully submitted
(Signed) Mrs Albert Buckenough

Elgin Township Financial Statement 1933.

Dec 7 Balance hand (bank book turned over by Mr. Martin)		21.29
Collections	$ 9.77	
Socials	12.50	
	22.27	
Refreshments (Cooking)	1.85	20.42
Dec. 28 Balance on hand		40.71

Mrs. Albert Buckenough, Treas.

Fidelis Group

Annual Report of Fidelis Group.

The Fidelis Group of the Simpfield Congregational Church has completed another year of work for our Church.

We are a small group but have been able to keep up our contributions, Church $50.00, Red Cross $10.00, Young Fellowship Fund for Children $5.00 and $3.00 for Bibles for the Sunday School.

Our Sunshine Cover rolled up quite a number the first of the year. We each number agreed to send $2.00 — one for every month in the year and contribute to Missions.

We made Xmas decorations again this year and proved very successful.

Respectfully submitted
(Signed) Martha Brown, Sec.

The Adventures in Reading program for the year ending in April 1951 was repeated this year.

This year we have missed Mrs. Illingworth's inspiring review of the new books and have been further handicapped by the delay of the supplementary lists.

Interest in the books made available at the Church on Lindsay morning has been picking up this month and may be important in the year with receipt of the new list and additional books from both Brimfield and Southbridge libraries.

Signed Ethel Spurr, Chairman

L.B.L. In January 1, 1951 there were 38 members and 2 honorary members. During the year the following meals were served with profit as listed:

Card Party 14.14; Food Sale & Luncheon 57.81; St John's Band feast 29.24; Mother Daughter Banquet 6.80; Buffet Luncheon Pot & fish wedding, 131.75; Strawberry Supper 44.45; Harvest Supper 55.43; Father Son Banquet 13.50

Our contributions to Home & Foreign Missions consisted of:-

Second mile gift	12.25
Mass. Conv. & Mass. Inc.	5.—
Collection for Peter Shih	16.15
a 32# food pkg. sent to India	

Locally we gave:-

Red Cross	12.00
Cancer	10.00
"Save the Children"	12.00
Sp. Eff. of Church	80.00
Grange Com. Hd. Ry.	5.00
Gift to Ruth Marter	20.00

Our foremost project of the year was the redecoration of the Vestry which was done at a cost of $22.7. We also bought 21 pieces of silver plated hollow ware, and opened the cost of $7.27

During the year we have had speakers at various meetings. Mrs Harold Marston spoke about the Elks; Mr & Mrs. David Keating showed colored pictures of their visit to Scandinavian countries; Rev. Peter Shih, Chinese missionary, talked of his work; Katherine Everett talked on glass and antiques; Helen Collins entertained with a talk & show of the hobby - "Buttons"; Irving Reid showed colored slides of his recent trip abroad; Rev. & Mrs. Robt. Illingworth gave a Christmas program.

Instead of the regular Christmas party with an exchange of gifts, members made a contribution toward a general fund to buy the Christmas gifts for the children in town. Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Metcalf, Sec

Brimfield, Mass.
January 31, 1952

To the First Congregational Church
Brimfield
Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

I, Everett D. Landen, Treasurer of the First Congregational Church, respectfully submit my annual report of the Church, for the year ending December 31, 1951.

EVERETT D. LANDEN
TREASURER

Jan 6 Special meeting at the close of morning service to receive and take action on report of Standing Committee regarding the division of present membership into active and inactive members.

The Clerk reported that a list of all contributions and pledges had been received from Church Collector Fresh. This list was checked against the Church list of 124 members. It developed that of the 70 members who attend more or less regularly

50 contributed — 20 did not contribute in 1951

of the 54 who seldom, if ever, attend (attendance at Easter, Christmas, baptism of children, etc. not considered)

18 contributed — 36 did not contribute in 1951.

It was decided that those who attended more or less regularly, be considered Active 70

And that all who contributed (did not attend) be considered Active 18

Total Active 88

The remaining members who do not contribute and who do not attend (except for baptisms, special occasions) be recommended to the Church as Inactive 36

The recommended list

Adeline Adams - Cliff - & Annie - [illegible] - Bessie - Clifford - Eugene Gertrude Cross - Virginia Dickinson - Carol Fresh - Wm. Fresh - Bertie Hastings - Mary Hitchcock - Mae Livingston - Edith Kemp - Virginia Kemp - [illegible] Bill MacDonald - Nick MacGregor - Mary Martin - Steve Palmer - Barbara Phillips Evelyn Plumley - Geo. B. Sherman Jr. - Geo. Sherman - Phyllis Sherman - Kenneth Silvius - Vera Silvius Quinine Spencer - Wm. Spencer - Leila P. Stevens - Betty Thomas Grace Thompson Agnes Van Hook - Lucinda Wilson - [illegible] - Charles Ward - Albert Wardin - Mary Ward

It was also pointed out that by listing these names as Inactive in no way affects their church membership. (We will still have 124 members — 88 ACTIVE - 36 INACTIVE. Any Inactive member may become Active at any time. Tax to the Conf. Ed., however is paid for Active members only and the Board has requested that we distinguish between Active and Absent or Inactive Members. Carry on the reported membership amounts to 27-28 cents per capita.

Several objections were expressed at being finally classified as "inactive" in spite of the fact that they in reality have no active interest either by attending services or contributing.

Motion It was finally voted that the list be returned to the Standing Committee for further revision at their next meeting.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES

RECEIPTS:

Balance, January 1, 1951		$1940.16
Pledge Collections	$3069.01	
Plate Collections	647.18	
Investment Income	1389.84	
Miscellaneous Income *	50.74	
Benevolence - Reg.	351.24	
Benevolence - Spec.	44.10	
Insurance Refund	12.22	5564.33
		$7504.49

EXPENSES:

Pastor's Salary	$1200.00	
Pastor's Travel	200.00	
Pulpit Supply	405.26	
Organist	208.00	
Choir Director	208.00	
Janitor	300.00	
Light & Power	78.29	
Fuel	490.90	
Benevolence Payment - Reg.	675.84	
Benevolence Payment - Spec.	44.10	
Parsonage Maintenance	39.35	
Church Maintenance	359.22	
Insurance	184.83	
Interest	177.92	
Music	3.37	
Payment on Church Alt. Loan	500.00	
Miscellaneous Items *	310.31	$5385.39
Balance, December 31, 1951		2119.10
		$7504.49

* See Exhibit I

EXHIBIT I

BREAKDOWN OF MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS:

Envelope Purchases	$ 6.57	
Upper Rooms	2.00	
Special Offering for Little Wanderers	42.17	
		$ 50.74

EXPENSES:

Checks, Supplies, and Expenses	$ 56.68	
Envelopes	17.29	
Pastor's Annuity	26.67	
Taxes	8.25	
Pastor's Reception	25.13	
Light, Power, and Gas	23.05	
Care - Church Grounds	59.50	
Safe Deposit Box Rent	10.80	
Membership Tax	31.05	
Parsonage Telephone Holding chg.	4.72	
Little Wanderers' Home	42.17	
Sunday School	5.00	
		$ 310.31

INVESTMENTS:

Deposited in Savings Banks:		Value	Income	TOTAL INCOME
Palmer Savings Bank:				
Hicks Fund		$ 553.70		
Not Identified - Bk. # 56941	P.D.	1094.52	$ 25.98	
Ware:				
Not Identified - Bk. # 63988	P.D.	1103.00	27.56	
Southbridge:				
Foster Fund	P.D.	429.67	10.72	
E. Clark Marsh Fund	P.D.	429.67	10.72	
Julia Hubbard Fund	P.D.	300.00	7.50	
Not Identified - Bk. # 14298	P.D.	128.89	3.20	
Warren:				
Miner Corbin Fund	P.D.	231.16	5.78	
Newton Hubbard Fund	P.D.	500.00	12.50	
Not Identified - Bk. # 16381	P.D.	354.95	8.84	
Monson:				
Not Identified - Bk. # 20529	P.D.	270.85	6.42	
		$5396.41		

STOCKS:

		Price (Mkt. 2/1/52)	Value	Income
9 sh.	Winnipeg Elec. Common	38	342.00	15.47
10 sh.	Boston Edison Common	46-1/8	461.25	28.00
30 sh.	General Elec. Common	58-1/4	1747.50	85.50
13 sh.	Pacific Gas & Elec. Com.	35-3/4	464.75	Rts. 1.25) 26.00)
30 sh.	Am. Tel. & Tel. Common	156	4680.00	Rts.57.90) 270.00)
24 sh.	U. S. Steel Common	41-1/8	987.00	72.00
1 sh.	U. S. Steel Pref.	141¼	141.25	7.00
36 sh.	Union Pacific R.R. Com.	112¼	4041.00	216.00
108 sh.	Std. of N. J.	82-3/8	8896.50	445.50
8 sh.	Southern Cal.Edison Com.	36	288.00	16.00

BONDS:

			Value	Income	
Gt. Northern Bond 5½ of '52	$1000.00	$1000.00	$1000.00		
Pacific Gas & Elec. 3% of '74	1000.00	997.50	997.50	30.00	$1389.84
			($24,046.75)		

Jan. 6 cont A letter from Rev. Kenneth B. Smith telling us that Interim Minister Harold Bentley will be available to us through Jan. 21 only was read by the Clerk.

Action: It was voted that a collection be taken for the purpose of presenting Rev. Bentley with some token of our regard on Jan. 21. Donations to be left at the Post Office or at the Store.

A letter from Mrs. Miller expressing appreciation for work that is being done for them at the parsonage, the second by the Clerk, was also read. It was voted that Mrs. Miller be asked to have it framed and hung in the church stating Jan. 27 if the parsonage is not ready for occupancy by that date.

Meeting adjourned

Jan 23 The Millers moved into the Parsonage

Jan 27 Mrs. Miller began her parsonage duties.

Respectfully submitted
Evelyn B. Landen

Feb. 17 A special meeting, which was duly called on Feb. 13, was held following the morning service. The meeting was called to order by Moderator J. B. Brown.

Action 1- It was voted that our Minister, Rufus N. Miller be authorized to administer the Sacraments of Communion and Baptism, pending his Ordination.

2 It was voted: To request the Hampden Association to release our membership. And to apply for membership in the Berkshire Association.

3 It was voted: - That if we are accepted as a member of the Berkshire Association, that we unite with Holland in the call for an Examining Council.

4- The matter of making ~~making~~ a contribution to the Conference Center Fund was tabled pending obtaining more information about the project.

5- It was voted: To pay dues to the Berkshire Council of Churches according to $.02 per capita. April 1, 1951 – March 31, 1952 (Check to be made payable to Earl Higgins, Maple St., Stockbridge - The Treas. of the Council)

6 It was voted: That if any members could be found willing to go to Lenox tonight to take part in celebration of Dr. E. S. Robinson's 50 year pastorate at Grace Church that he be authorized to go as a representative of the Church. Also, "That the Clerk be asked to write an appropriate letter of congratulations to Mr. Robinson.

7. It was voted to accept, upon recommendation of the Standing Committee, into our membership, Rufus N. Miller by letter from Union Church of So. Dorbro, Mass. Also Doris Miller by letter from First Baptist Church of Lynn, Mass.

Meeting adjourned.

Evelyn B. Landen, Clerk.

Feb. 24 Reception was held in the Vestry for Mr & Mrs. Miller.

29 World Day of Prayer was observed.

March 3 & 10 Call was read from pulpit for Special Meeting of Church Wednesday March 12 at 7:30 P.M. to receive and take action on report of By-law Revision and transact any necessary business.

✓ 10 Rufus Ward Miller and Etha Davis Miller were received into membership by letters, with appropriate service by Deacons following morning service.

March 12 Special Meeting, called March 3 and 10 for purpose of receiving report of Committee upon By-law revision and take any necessary action.

Meeting opened in Church Vestry at 7.30 with 21 members present. In the absence of Moderator Clarence Brown our pastor called the meeting to order. After a prayer by Mr. Miller invoking guidance in the task before us, Roger Bennett was elected (temporary Moderator).

As the members present had received copies of the proposed amendments on March 10 there had been opportunity for careful review. Each Article and Section was taken up individually. All points upon which any questions arose were discussed and modified to the satisfaction of all.

Action: It was finally moved by Terry Weston, seconded by Jim Senga and voted unanimously "That the By-laws of this Church be and hereby are adopted as of this date (March 12, 1952) by substituting therefor the By-laws in the form attached hereto and signed on each page thereof by the Clerk."

"By Laws of the First Congregational Church of Brimfield, Massachusetts as amended March 12, 1952"

Name

Article I.

The name of this Church is The First Congregational Church of Brimfield, Massachusetts.

Purpose

Article II:

The purpose of this Church shall be to conduct the public worship of God in this community and to further the work of spreading the Kingdom of God in the lives of men as set forth in the life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Covenant

Article III:

We covenant with the Lord and with one another, and do bind ourselves in the presence of God to walk together in all His ways, according as He is pleased to reveal Himself unto us in His Blessed Word of Truth. We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the gospel to all mankind, exalting the worship of the one true

God and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of human brotherhood.

Government

Article IV

Section 1. The government of this Church shall be vested in its members.

Section 2. Except as otherwise provided in these By laws, all members of the Church twenty one years of age or over shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Church.

Membership

Article V

Section 1 ACTIVE MEMBERS

a.) All persons who at the adoption of these By laws are active members of this Church shall continue to be active members of the Church.

b) Those persons who upon examination by the Board of Deacons are found to be in sympathy with the purpose of and accept the Covenant of this Church, shall, if accepted by a majority vote of Church members present and voting at any meeting, be admitted to Active Membership upon Confession of Faith, subject to such requisitions as the Church may hereafter adopt.

C.) Those persons who, upon bringing letters from other Churches, or a satisfactory substitute therefor, are recommended by the Board of Deacons and are accepted by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any meeting of this Church, shall be Active Members of the Church.

Section 2 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Any person who contributes regularly to the support of this Church, upon application and by vote of the Active Members, may become an Associate Member of the Church with the privilege of attending all business meetings and voting upon financial questions only, provided that no action of a meeting in which associate members have taken part, looking to the reduction of a minister's salary or the alienation of Church property, shall be valid until the same has been ratified by a meeting of Church members only, or until sixty (60) days have elapsed without a written request of ten (10) Church members to such a meeting.

Section 3. INACTIVE MEMBERS

a.) Any active member, who, for a period of three years has had no relationship with the Church (financial or otherwise), may, upon investigation after consultation or correspondence and recommendation of the Board of Deacons after consultation with the Minister, be placed on the inactive list. The Clerk, shall upon recommendation of Minister or Board of Deacons, shall forthwith promptly notify such members of this action in writing.

b.) Any Inactive Member may be reinstated to the Active Membership by resuming his full obligations to this Church.

Section 4. Termination of Membership

a.) Letters of Transfer — Other Churches may be furnished by the Clerk with the advice of the Minister or the Board of Deacons, without [illegible] action of the Church except that in cases where the Minister has no personal knowledge of the applicant, or where for other reasons he cannot recommend the letter, the request for a letter of transfer shall be acted upon by the Board of Deacons.

b.) Withdrawal — The Church, by majority vote of its members present and voting at any meeting may release any member, whether Active, Inactive, or Associate from his obligations to this Church upon [illegible] request, and the relationship of such [illegible] with this Church shall then [illegible].

c.) Discipline — Any member, whether Active, Inactive or Associate who becomes an offense to this Church and its good name by immoral or unchristian conduct, or by failure to assume his obligation as a member of this Church may be censured, suspended from membership for a fixed time or expelled from the Church by a two thirds vote of the active members present and voting at any business meeting. No such action shall be taken unless and until the Board of Deacons after consultation with the Minister shall have first investigated the matter; conducted a hearing at which the [illegible] concerned.

shall have had seven (7) days notice in writing and at which the member concerned shall have the right to be present and to present witnesses, and be recorded that such member be censured, suspended, or expelled.

Officers & Committees

Article 21

Section 1 OFFICERS: The officers of this Church shall be a Moderator, Senior Deacons, Junior Deacons, Senior Deaconess, Junior Deaconess, Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Editor, Sunday School Superintendent, Five Trustees, Finance Committee and Deacons' Building Committee.

Section 2 ELECTIONS: At the annual meeting on May 2, 1952, the only officers to be elected shall be an Assistant Treasurer for a term of one year, one Deaconess for a term of ~~two~~ one years, one Deaconess for a term of two years, one Deaconess for a term of three years and one Deaconess for a term of four years. The terms of all other officers except Trustees and except the Banking Committee (all members of which race resigned and which no longer will be in existence) are hereby extended to the first Friday in May after the expiration of their respective terms.

The number of Trustees to be elected is provided in Article VI, Section 3. Such number of Trustees shall be elected at each annual meeting for a term of three years as shall be necessary to maintain at all times five (5) Trustees, and no Trustee shall be eligible for re-election in the year in which his term expires. One Deacon and one Deaconess will be elected at each annual meeting for a term of four (4) years and no Deacon or Deaconess shall be eligible for re-election in the year in which his or her term expires. Any vacancy in the Deacons or Deaconess shall be elected as provided in Article VI, Sections 4 and 5. All other officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the Church [illegible] of each year. The

Officers shall hold office during their respective terms and until their respective successors are elected.

When a vacancy occurs in any Church office (except that of Minister) the Church Cabinet shall fill such vacancy by interim appointment until the next annual meeting of the Church at which, after receiving the recommendations of the Nominating Committee, the Church shall elect a person to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

Section 3 Minister: The Minister shall preach the religious truths of the Church, shall preach the Gospel, shall administer the Sacraments, shall conduct public worship, and shall care for the spiritual welfare of the Church and its members. He shall be an ex-officio member of all Boards, Committees, and Organizations of the Church.

The Minister shall be called for an indefinite tenure by a majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting. Either the Minister, or the Church by a majority vote of its members present and voting at any business meeting may terminate the ministerial relationship on two months' notice in writing unless the Minister and Church shall agree otherwise.

Section 4 Board of Deacons: The Deacons shall aid the Minister in the administration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, in the administration of the Sacrament of Baptism, and in the reception of new members. They shall assist in the work of parish visitation and shall administer relief to needy families. They shall receive application by letter or otherwise for admission to Church Membership and shall examine applicants for Church membership on Confession of Faith. Any Deacon recommended by the Church Cabinet for his outstanding service to the Church may, after the expiration of his term of office as Deacon and upon election, at an annual meeting, shall have for life all the privileges of an active member. The Deacons and all senior Deacons shall continue in office for one year and shall annually elect their Chairman.

Section 5 Board of Deaconesses: The Deaconesses shall assist in the work of parish visitation and in the relief of needy families. They shall prepare the elements of the Sacraments. Any Deaconess recommended by the Church Cabinet for her outstanding

service to the Church may after the expiration of her term be elected, at the annual meeting, a Senior Deaconess and upon election shall have for life all the privileges of an active Deaconess. The four Deaconesses and all Senior Deaconesses shall constitute the Board of Deaconesses and shall annually elect a Chairwoman.

Section 6 Moderator: The Moderator shall preside at all meetings of the Church. In case the Moderator is absent from any meeting the members shall elect a temporary Moderator for such meeting.

Section 7 Clerk: The Clerk shall have the custody of the records and of the Church and shall record therein the reception of all members and any termination of membership by dismission, death, or otherwise, and shall also record all business transacted at the meetings of the Church (together with all marriages and baptisms which the Pastor may report to him), shall issue letters of transfer and shall perform all other duties which properly pertain to his office or which may be required by the Church.

Section 8 Treasurer: The treasurer shall receive from the Assistant Treasurer all financial contributions, shall hold and disburse all funds of the Church subject to its direction and the direction of the Board of Trustees. He shall keep the accounts of the Church in suitable books and shall discharge all other duties properly appertaining to his office as may be required by the Church or the Board of Trustees. He shall be bonded for such amount as the Board of Trustees may direct, and shall be in the name of the Church. He shall make an annual written report to the Church of the receipts and disbursements. He shall be a member ex-officio of the Board of Trustees.

Section 9 Assistant Treasurer: The Assistant Treasurer shall receive and record all payments on financial pledges toward the support of the Church and its benevolences as well as all other financial contributions. He shall turn over all funds received to the Treasurer. He shall issue quaterly statements and distribute envelopes to those who have made pledges.

Section 10 Auditor: The Auditor shall cause the accounts of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer to be carefully audited at the close of the fiscal year and shall make a written report of his findings at the annual meeting of the Church.

Section 11 Superintendent of Sunday School: The Superintendent of the Sunday School shall have the general oversight and direction of the school and shall conduct its affairs upon such general plans and in accordance with such methods as may be approved by the Church Cabinet. He shall at the annual meeting of the Church present a written report of the work of the school during the year, with such recommendations as he may deem wise.

Section 12. Board of Trustees: The five elected Trustees shall constitute the Board of Trustees and shall annually elect their Chairman. The Board of Trustees shall meet regularly once a month and except as otherwise provided in these By-laws shall have the management of the affairs and administrative business of the Church. The Board of Trustees shall have the power to appoint an acting Treasurer in the event of the inability or failure of the elected Treasurer to fulfill the duties of his office. The Board of Trustees shall have the power to require that such bond, as in its discretion is desirable, shall be secured for the Treasurer for the faithful performance of his duties, and shall be deposited with the Clerk. The real estate of the Church, together with all books, equipment, furniture, and other personal property used in connection therewith, and all invested funds of the Church shall be in the custody of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees shall have custody of the invested funds

of the Church, but shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any real estate without a specific vote of the Church authorizing such action. The Board shall make at the annual meeting a detailed report in writing of all of their transactions during the year. The Board shall provide for the raising of all funds for the operation of the Church and its benevolences. The Board shall prepare the Budget after consultation with the Church Cabinet and submit the Budget to the Church at the annual meeting for approval and acceptance.

Section 13 Laymen's Representative: The Laymen's Representative shall have the right to represent the Church at all Laymens Conferences and shall report to the Church Cabinet on all such activities.

Section 14 Church Cabinet: The Church Cabinet shall be composed of Church Members and shall consist of the Minister, Laymen's Representative, Clerk, Superintendent of Sunday School, Chairman, President, or appointed representative of the following: Board of Trustees, Board of Deacons, Board of Deaconesses, Music Committee, Ladies Benevolent Society, Fidelis Group, and any other adult Church organization. The Cabinet shall elect its own Chairman, shall meet once a month and shall have general supervision of internal Church affairs. It shall counsel with the Minister and plan for such additional meetings, activities, and programs of the Church as may from time to time seem desirable. It shall have the power to appoint such committees or persons as may be necessary to carry out any such activities or programs. It shall have the power to appoint, or to elect a Pastoral Supply Committee. A quorum necessary to transact business shall consist of five (5) members.

Section 15 Music Committee: The Music Committee which shall consist of the Chairman and two members appointed by such Chairman, shall have supervision of all music for the Church and shall with the provisions of the Budget arrange for vocal and instrumental music appropriate for all services of the Church.

Section 16. Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members, shall be appointed by the Church Cabinet at least one month before the date of any annual meeting. The Committee shall present to the annual meeting a ballot nominating one person for each office to be filled at such meeting.

Organization

Article VII.

All organizations affiliated with the Church and whose purposes are in harmony with the purposes of the Church are regarded as integral parts of the Church and under its general oversight. Persons wishing to form an organization shall first obtain approval of the Church Cabinet. Each adult organization shall have a representative of its own choosing on the Church Cabinet.

Each organization shall prepare a report for the annual meeting which shall be presented at that meeting by a member of the Church.

Article VIII.

Section 1. Services: Public services shall be held statedly on the Lord's Day and on such other times as the Church may from time to time determine.

Section 2. Sacrament: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall, except as the Church Cabinet shall otherwise determine, be administered on the first Sunday of each second month beginning with January.

Section 3. Special Meetings: The members present at any of the regular meetings of the Church for worship may without special notice transact any business relative to the admission or withdrawal of members, the appointment of committees, or of delegates to Ecclesiastical councils, Conferences and similar bodies.

Section 4. Annual Meeting: The annual meeting of the Church shall be held on the first Friday in May at which time annual reports shall be received, other business transacted and officers elected, such elections to be last in order of business. Notice of any annual meeting shall be prepared by the Clerk and read from the pulpit at the morning

business within the two preceding Sundays. The first annual meeting after the adoption of these amended By-laws shall be held the first Friday in May 1952.

Section 5. Business Meetings: Business meetings of the Church shall be called by the Clerk whenever a written request specifying the date of the proposed meeting and the objects of the same shall be filed with him by the Minister, or by five adult members of the Church. The call of the meeting (in which the objects of the same shall be specified) shall be read from the pulpit at the morning service not less than three days before the date of the meeting. No action not specified in the call shall be transacted at any business meeting.

Section 6. Quorum: At all annual business and special meetings fifteen members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 7. Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of this Church hereafter shall commence on April 1 each year beginning with April 1, 1952.

Section 8. Making of Amendments: These By-laws may be amended or repealed by a two thirds vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting of the Church or at a business meeting provided that no amendment shall be proposed except on the written request of the Church Cabinet or fifteen adult members of the Church filed with the Clerk and unless a copy of the proposed amendment is posted in the Church on the day when the Notice of Meeting is read from the pulpit.

Section 9. Rules for Government: In all matters of government not provided for in these By-laws, the Church shall be governed by established Congregational usage.

A rising vote of thanks was extended to the Committee on By-laws revision and to the Chairman, Roger Bennett, especially, in appreciation of the great amount of time and effort given to the task of compiling this very thorough revision.

1952
Mar. 12

Resignations of Lillian Brown, Alice Matheson, and Ida Briggs, standing from church members were accepted.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted
Evelyn B. Landen, Clerk.

March 30 A special meeting of the church was held following the morning service. It was voted to accept the following into our membership.
Evelyn Tulip and Robert Segrin upon Confession of Faith
Mrs Elna Ackerman and Joyce Segrin (Mrs. Robt.) by letters from Trinity M.C., Springfield.
Edward and Martha (Mrs. Edw.) Jezek by letters from
Evelyn B. Landen, Clerk.

April 6 The following were received into membership:-
Evelyn Tulip by Conf. of Faith, Edward and Martha Jezek by letter

April 10 Maundy Thursday Services were held at Holland Congregational Church.

April 11 Good Friday Services were held in Brimfield Church.

April 13 Easter Sun-rise Service held on Tower Hill at 6:30. Rev. Thurston Powell of Sturbridge brought the message. Followed by breakfast in the Vestry.

April 20 Call for Annual Meeting to be held May 2 was read from pulpit.

April 27 Second call for Annual Meeting was read from pulpit.
A special meeting was held following morning service to elect delegates to the Hampden Association Meeting to be held in Palmer today. Mr Miller will attend. Mr and Mrs Harley H. Landen were elected delegates.
E.B. Landen, Clerk

NOTE:
Our request to withdraw from the Hampden Association so as to join the Brookfield Association in order to be able to unite with Holland in calling for an Ecclesiastical Council for Examination, Ordination, and Installation of our Minister received favorable action by the Association. E.B.L.

~~Mar~~ ~~May~~ May 2 Annual Meeting, which was called on April 20 and 27, was held in the Vestry at 7:30.

Following a brief devotional service led by Mr. Miller the meeting was turned over to Moderator Clarence B. Brown.

Roll Call Thirty-two (32) members answered the Roll Call and responses were read for three (3) who were absent. Total attendance 33

Membership Jan. 1, 1952	MEN 35	WOMEN 89	TOTAL 124
Received (by letter)	1	1	2
Removed	0	0	0
Totals March 31, 1952	36	90	126

1952
74 Mayr
Ann. Mtg.

Minutes of last Annual Meeting, December 28, 1951, and Special Church Meetings January 1 through March 31, 1952 were read by the Clerk. No errors or omissions were noted these were declared accepted by the Moderator.

No unfinished business.

Reports

Pastor's Rep. p. 95 — The Pastor's report given by Mr. Miller was accepted and filed with the Clerk.

Legal's Rep. — Legal's Representative — no report

Legal's Trustees p. 96 — Legal's Friendship report read by Advisor Albert C. Birchmaugh, was declared accepted by the Moderator and filed with clerk.

Sunday School p. 97 — Sunday School report read by Superintendent Mrs. Macumber, was declared accepted and filed.

L.B.S. p. 99 — Ladies' Benevolent Society report prepared by Mrs. Shirley Mitchell was read by President Olive Weston, declared accepted and filed.

Finance — Bertha Brown reported verbally that since January 1 the Church received $1,[illegible] to the Old Debt and $[illegible] to the Church. Report declared accepted.

Mus. Committee p. 99 — Report of Music Committee read by Chairman Philip Lund was declared accepted and filed.

Adv. in Training — Ethel Spooner reported verbally that during our third year of the project [illegible] March 31, 1952 there were 12 readers who qualified by reading the required number of books from all sections of the list. A considerable number of readers read from 3 of the sections. The new year started on April 1. Declared accepted.

Treasurer p. 81 — Treasurer's Report Jan. 1 – Mar. 31, 1952 was read by Treas. Everett Sunden, declared accepted, and filed with Clerk.

Auditor — No report from Auditor.

Trustees — [illegible] report read by Chairman [illegible] Lund declared accepted as filed.

Deacons — A verbal report for the Deacons given by Percy Moore was declared accepted.

Nominating — The report of the Nominating Committee was read by Chairman Olive Weston.
Deaconess for 1 year, Edith MacGillivray
" 2 " Lillian Brown

Deaconess for 3 years, Alice Matheson
" " 4 " Hester Sherman
Assistant Treasurer, Clarence Keith
Laymen's Representative, John Sisson Jr.

The Moderator inquired if there were further nominations for the offices. There being none, it was moved, seconded, and voted that nominations be closed and that the Clerk cast one ballot to elect the nominees. The ballot was cast and the slate of officers elected.

Budget — Treasurer Everett Landers read and explained the proposed Budget prepared by the Board of Trustees. It was voted that the Budget be accepted.

Meeting adjourned. 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted
Evelyn B. Landers Clerk.

Reports:

Pastor — On January 24, the new Pastor and his family moved into the Church Parsonage. Space here does not allow a description of the handsome circumstances that now prevail there as a result of the recent renovations; new paper, paint, kitchen fixtures, and roof being the principal items.

A reception was held in the Church vestry to visibly indicate the kindness of the people to their minister and his family. This welcome extended by the Churches has continued undiminished to the present time and is a source of great satisfaction and comfort.

In the course of the past three months, regular services of worship have been conducted on Sunday mornings. These services include: World Day of Prayer; Maundy Thursday Service (in Holland); Good Friday Service; Easter Sunrise Service; and the University of Life Program for four Sundays in February.

Nine new members have been added to our Church roll. One name has been withdrawn. Two infants have been baptized. Four funerals have been conducted in Palmer Funeral Home.

The Pastor has worked with the leaders of the Pilgrim Fellowship. He has attended meetings, enjoyed their socials, and recently learned some of the rudiments of square dancing. He is now conducting a membership class for the Pilgrim Fellowship youth in their preparation for Church membership. He has attended meetings of the Sunday School teachers as conducted by the Superintendent in her home. That this group deserves special recognition is an understatement.

He has attended two conference sessions for ministers on

Reports

Springfield and one in Spencer. He has endeavored to become acquainted with the Council of Churches in Southbridge. In an effort to know the people here, he has visited in their homes and has found all, especially those under sickness and sorrow, prevailed.

Though he has been slow in connecting the names and faces of people who so generously give their hearts and efforts to the Church, he has not been slow to see and be thankful for their good and its positive effect. An incomplete list of the people and groups he sees as the successful Church and the effectiveness of this ministry depend in a future: (Alphabetically) Auditor, Asst. Treasurer, Choir Director and Vocalist Choir, Church Cabinet, Church Clerk, Commission on By-law revision, Couples Club, Deaconess, Deacons, Every Member Canvass Captains, Fellowship, Finance Committee, F.S.L., Laymen's Representative, Moderator, Music Committee, Nominating Committee, Organist, Pilgrim Fellowship and its leaders, Sunday School and its teachers and Superintendent, Treasurer, and Ushers — To these and to every individual member and friend of this Church, I pledge my prayers and pledge his cooperation in future undertakings.

He has endeavored and will continue to aim at serving the needs of this Church and the community, this end is limited only by his experience, abilities, and his knowledge of God. Summary, with the same fervency of Christ-mindedness he has witnessed for three years, he sought future service for the First Congregational Church of Springfield. With God's ever present guidance and with earnest efforts to be his humble, new Church, with deep forward looking faith, we can and must fill it with staff. Respectfully submitted, Roger H. Miller.

Pilgrim Fellowship

The Pilgrim Fellowship have had their regular Sunday evening worship services monthly. The young people went to a Spencer Youth meeting one Sunday, to a Southbridge meeting on Sunday, and to the Knowledge of Life in Southbridge from Monday to Friday of Vacation week, which is described elsewhere. Mrs. Fitz Spencer, Mr. Miller, and the Kirkwoods served as Counselors for the young people and helped much at the Church. A new roof was put on the parsonage, and we have had the usual number of Sunday evening services.

The Fellowship has held a monthly service for all young people, each contributing [illegible] to pay for individual books and [illegible]. It has served as a Fellowship [illegible] and chiefly to send special to [illegible] [illegible].

The Young Folks' [illegible] and square dance with a young people [illegible] the Pilgrim Square Dance. February we had a Valentine Social. March, movies with films from the University of Massachusetts. April, games and dancing.

March 19th the Sunday School and Pilgrim Fellowship held a joint Parent-Teacher meeting at [illegible] opportunity for a general discussion of all interested parties.

[illegible] Fellowship [illegible] hen enough furnished the music for [illegible] Service. Comments on the quality of the [illegible] most gratifying. Another program [illegible] for [illegible].

We wish to thank all who gave their time and effort for the benefit of the Pilgrim Fellowship. [illegible] fine thankful recognition to Mr. Miller [illegible] preparing program.

Pilgrim Fellowship, Treasury Balance 5/1/52 $ 53.35

Respectfully submitted
Mrs. Albert E. Birchenough

Sunday School January-March: Sunday School has been a continuation of the fall sessions with an average attendance of 30-35. The drop in our attendance due to illness.

We have had the names of four new arrivals added to our Cradle Roll making a Cradle Roll enrollment of 12.
(Donald A. Bessette. Coral Lynn Ford, [illegible] Richard [illegible])

The Children's [illegible] of Times, [illegible] represented by two to four or more from each of our S. S. classes with [illegible] Pilgrim Fellowship group. The collections

of Boy's Involved in "Show Supper Dignitaries".

By Organ Talks and Sunday School held a joint Record and Teachers night Monday, March 30 very rainy. Weather of course, it being another very bad stormy night we were very happy to find so many interested.

The movie of "A Wonderful Life" was shown by Mr. Bruce. Mr. Bruce, Charles and Lyle to be set video very pleased to have the opportunity of getting more acquainted with our children's parents.

Mrs. Poulton, Mr. Clayton Preston, Leaders of Leadership had charge which has teachers at our March meeting and an discussion on Bible teaching and selecting of Staff supplies - books and teaching materials. Each teacher was more helped and encouraged. The new "Revised Edition" of the New Testament which is written in every day words was suggested by Mrs. Poulton for use by our children up to Middle School grades. A book for Kindergarten work was purchased from Mrs. Poulton that night by the S.S. fund for our Kindergarten teacher.

The Sunday School has organized a nursery under Elsie Davis. Pat has been our teacher and assistant in charge. Our attendance varies between [illegible] every Sunday. Milk and graham crackers are provided for the children during the hour. This we hope will be a help in allowing more of our mothers to attend the morning service.

Now I would like to ask our congregation to have faith in little groups with the development of our Sunday School. Who by very hard and see most wonderful. We aim to do a much better job beginning next fall - "Lord willing". Respectfully submitted, Mrs. J. Reynolds, Secy.

Ladies Benevolent Society

On January 1972 there were 5 regular and 2 honorary members. On Dec. 3 new members joined the group and in March 3 more.

In March, Mrs. Lyle Davis was elected president, [illegible].

In March Mrs. Lyle Davis presented a concert by the Pomonte Men's Chorus. This netted us a profit of $12.06

On Easter Sunday morning the group put on a "Breakfast" in

the Church Vestry.

Before our new Minister came to town the group put the parsonage in [illegible] shape, consisting of items of [illegible].

We paid [illegible] the expenses for these new items for the parsonage [illegible]

We also furnished refreshments for the reception held for Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] in the vestry. We made Mrs. [illegible] a gift of [illegible] [illegible] she might need to buy new items. She later informed us she was able to buy a dining room chair.

For the Church Vestry we replaced 2 of the old worn out tables with new ones at a cost of $52.50.

Our share in the Community [illegible] which took place [illegible] consisted of donations of money and food materials.

The quarterly payment for the general expense of the Church was made.

Missionary work was completed with materials costing $23.50.

The [illegible] gift totaled $[illegible].

Locally we gave $[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] of the [illegible] the Church [illegible].

At the [illegible] meeting plans were made for painting the [illegible] with both [illegible] in charge. The work has been completed.

Julia [illegible] was chosen to represent the [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] the Leadership [illegible].

Respectfully submitted, [illegible]

Music Committee — In January the Music Committee met with Mr. [illegible], the Music Director, to consider plans for the music at the church services during the coming [illegible].

It was decided that [illegible] should be formed, a Sunday School Choir [illegible] Choir. [illegible] that [illegible]

about once a month, with Mrs. Benjamin giving a solo on the remaining Sundays.

The [illegible] Choir, with Mrs. [illegible] as director, [illegible] but we hope that with practice they will [illegible] and strength.

The Pilgrim Fellowship Choir, with Mr. Albert Birch as director, under Mrs. Benjamin's supervision, has [illegible] once, but we will hope soon to hear th[illegible] their rehearsing as this is usually done at their [illegible] three Sundays and on Palm Sunday, a fourth [illegible] Men's Chorus rendered "The Palms".

The Music Committee wishes to thank all those who are giving their time to rehearsals in these various [illegible]

Mr. Philip Brown and Mrs. Benjamin deserve credit for th[illegible] music they have given at various extra services, both here and in Holland.

Respectfully submitted
Gladys D. L. Land, Cl[illegible]

Trustees — The Trustees report is one of definite accomplishment and app[illegible]

At their first meeting (following the last annual meeting of the Council) [illegible] Wm. W. Spooner as Clerk, Roe S. Clark and Everett D. Landen to have particular supervision of finances and James C. Hatch and Clar[illegible] particular supervision of my maintenance requirements for the church and the Parsonage and grounds.

The repair and redecorating of the Parsonage were completed so that the Minister and his family moved in before the agreed time for it's tenants to begin.

Credit is due Mr. Collins the decorator, and particularly to Mr. Fuller for his capable supervision of the entire work. In the fall the Church's heating, and especially Mrs. [illegible] Kaupt and the Ch[illegible] Kitchen, were greatly improved thanks to the Trustees efforts. To this effort

Brimfield, Mass.

May 1, 1952

To the First Congregational Church

Brimfield

Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

I respectfully submit my report of the Church for the fiscal period ending March 31, 1952.

Everett D. Landen

EVERETT D. LANDEN
TREASURER

RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES

PERIOD JAN. 1 - MAR. 31, 1952

RECEIPTS:

Balance, January 1, 1952		$2119.10	
Pledge Collections	$714.18		
Plate Collections	185.96		
Investment Income	435.43		
Matured Bond (Net)	998.50		
Benevolences	93.70		
Miscellaneous Income *	28.05		
Parsonage Furnishings	304.00		
Parsonage Mortgage	2000.00	4759.82	6878.92

EXPENSES:

Salaries: Pastor	437.50	
" Supply	60.00	
Organist	52.00	
Choir Director	52.00	
Janitor	75.00	
Pastor - Travel	62.50	
Light & Power	27.31	
Fuel	136.63	
Parsonage Maintenance	33.46	
Interest	51.75	
Music	3.17	
Parsonage Improvement	1409.60	
Miscellaneous Expense *	130.28	2531.20
		$4347.72

Accounts Payable:

Benevolences	93.70	93.70
		$4254.02

* See Exhibit I

EXHIBIT I

BREAKDOWN OF MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

RECEIPTS:

Envelope Purchase	8.05	
Use of Church for Wedding	10.00	
Sale of obsolete stove	10.00	$28.05

EXPENSES:

Clerk's & Pastor's Supplies	40.17	
Southbridge Council of Churches	10.00	
Parsonage telephone holding charge	3.35	
Parsonage Electric Light Bills	10.84	
Moving Expense - Mr. Miller	65.92	$130.28

5/1/52

EXHIBIT 1

PARSONAGE IMPROVEMENT

AND

FURNISHINGS

RECEIPTS:

Mortgage, Palmer Savings Bank	2000.00	
Contribution - L.B.S. - for Electric Range	104.00	
Contribution - Roe S. Clark - Electric Ref.	200.00	$2304.00

EXPENDED THROUGH MARCH 31, 1952:		1409.60	
EXPENDED APRIL		1014.92	
TO BE EXPENDED:			
Outside Painting (Cont. Price)	590.00		
Shingling	150.00		
Refrigerator	200.00		
Misc. extras (estimated)	200.00	1140.00	$3564.52

Budgeted Amount to Balance	$1260.52

5/1/52

PROPOSED BUDGET

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF BRIMFIELD

FISCAL YEAR APRIL 1, 1952 - MARCH 31, 1953

ESTIMATED EXPENSES:			
Salaries:			
Pastor		$2100.00	
Organist		240.00	
Choir Director		240.00	
Janitor		300.00	
Pastor's travel		300.00	
" supply		80.00	
Light & Power		80.00	
Fuel		500.00	
Music		25.00	
Sunday School		225.00	
Pilgrim Fellowship		10.00	
Insurance		150.00	
Interest:			
Church loan	157.50		
Parsonage	75.50	233.00	
Pastor's Annuity		193.00	
Church Alt. Ret.		450.00	
Parsonage Ret.		200.00	
Church Maintenance		150.00	
Parsonage Maintenance		200.00	
" Improvement		1060.00	
Miscellaneous:			
Clerk & Pastor's Supplies	225.00		
Envelope Purchase	10.00		
Taxes	9.00		
L.P.Gas	25.00		
Box Rent	11.00		
Membership Tax	32.00		
Unidentified	150.00	462.00	$7198.00
ESTIMATED RECEIPTS:			
Plate Collections		800.00	
Investment Income		1300.00	
Envelope Purchase		8.00	
Parsonage Maint. - C.B.B.		10.00	
From Surplus		1000.00	
Sunday School		190.00	
Amount to Balance		3890.00	$7198.00

5/1/52

help in cleaning the new parsonage kitchen, in cleaning so thoroughly the entire house, requiring furniture from various tables in the community, and for taking care of many other details which only the ladies know how to master.

The Trustees also wish to mention the able assistance received from the men of the community. These men cleared out the cellar, the barn and the yard so industriously, with the help of Mr. Orion Reed and his trucks.

To Mr. Perry Nixon we wish to give our thanks for helping the Church to have an adequate new electric range and for personally installing it. Mr. Donald Lux, our local Hotpoint Dealer, graciously relinquished his commission on the electric range as a friendly gesture to the Church. Also the Trustees express their appreciation to the Ladies Benevolent Society for the contribution of 50% of the cost of the range.

Mr. Roe Clark has generously made a contribution of a new electric refrigerator, to become a permanent fixture in the parsonage along with the range.

The Trustees do not forget either, the Fidelis Class who shared in stocking the parsonage pantry shelves. The Trustees wish to sincerely thank each person who gave so willingly of his time and services to have the parsonage ready for the minister and his family.

The west roof of the parsonage is now shingled. The exterior of the building is in the process of being painted and will soon shine with two new coats.

The parsonage driveway has received a satisfactory filling of gravel, and the Trustees thank Mr. Clarence Brown for his contribution of $10.00 for this purpose. The north driveway of the Church has also had a gravel treatment.

The flood lights, so generously given by the American Legion, have been in operation weekends since early in April.

In [illegible] the Diocesan of the M.C. Assn. and the Brimfield Community Improvement Plan on Sunday May 10 several yews will be planted to conceal the floodlight, and the trees and shrubs will be planted at the rear of the church around the heating vell and to conceal the incinerator, and elsewhere on the Church grounds. The work will be under the direction of Mr. Birchenough. (Anyone wishing to help in the planting, see Mr. Birchenough)

On this date, Sat. May 10, also, there will be an interesting ceremony in connection with the Brimfield Community Improvement Plan, at 7:30 P.M. which will include speeches and demonstration of planting. This planting of yews concealing the flood lights on front of the church will be done by a group of 4-H Club members. All are most cordially invited. It is gratifying to the Trustees that Brimfield folks are so willing to help in the improvement of our Church property.

Mr. Kenneth Silvius also has given gracious of his time in checking the electrical equipment of the Church, and has placed cards on the panel in the kitchen identifying the circuits and the fuses.

Mr. Percy Weston and Mrs. [illegible] Wright as Co-Chairmen very ably conducted the Every-member and friend Canvass on Palm Sunday with the help of the following teams:
A: Alt Bertha Birchenough B: Jim Sinigo C: Alice Matheson
D: Richard Brown, Enoch Wright, Clarence Keith, Mrs. Richard Brown
E: Roger Bennett, Ted Spooner, Bea MacConnell
F: Phil Benjamin, Mrs Benjamin, Kenneth Silvius, Alfred Wiggleworth
G: Clarence B. Brown
The first named in each group was the Captain.
The Trustees wish to say "thank you" to all these friends who

Many are the other details which have been taken care of by your Trustees. With the continued loyal support of the community our fundamental motivation is to make our Brimfield Church - "a thing of beauty and a joy forever!"

Respectfully submitted
Charles A. DeLand, Chairman

May 4 Special meeting of the morning service to select delegates to Brookfield Assn meeting held today in Warren at 3:00 P.M. Mr & Mrs Harley H. Carter chosen.

May 4 Brookfield Assn voted (May 4) to accept the transfer of our association membership from Worcester Association. Council voted favorably on joint letter of Holland & Brimfield Churches requesting that it arrange for Examination, Ordination & Installation of Mr. Miller (Ex-pastor Holland, Instr. Brim.

May 11 In observance of "Mother's Day" entire families attended in groups.

13 The Charter meeting of a new group "The Men's Club" was held in the vestry. Organized on a Church and Community basis for purpose of stimulating Fellowship and Service projects.

18 Special meeting after morning service to elect delegates to the 3 day State Conference to be held in Worcester. Mr. Miller and Mrs. Harley Landon elected.
Mr. and Mrs. Harley A. Landon elected as delegates to represent the Church at Examination Council to be held in Holland May 25. ~~and~~

25 Examination of Rufus Ward Miller for Ordination by Ecclesiastical Council of the Brookfield Association held in Holland Congregational Church, 3:00 P.M. (Copy of minutes of Council under date of June 15)

June 8 Children's Day Service at time of Church Service. Baccalaureate at 8:00 P.M.

June 15 Ordination and Installation Service for Mr. Miller followed by reception.
(Copy of Minutes of Council)
Pursuant to Letters Missive issued by The First Congregational Church of Brimfield and the Congregational Church of Holland and bearing date of May 7, 1952, an ecclesiastical council, convened in the house of worship of the Holland Church at 3 P.M., on May 25, 1952, to examine Mr. Rufus W. Miller with reference to his fitness for the gospel ministry and if deemed advisable to ordain and install him as pastor of the said Churches.

The letter missive was read by the scribe of Brookfield Association and Mr. Martin Smith of Barre was Moderator with Mrs. Andrew E. Loux Jr. of West Braintree Scribe. The roll of the council was then made up, which, completed, is as follows:

A quorum being found present, the moderator constituted the council with prayer.

The records of the church were presented by the Clerk, Mrs. Evelyn B. Landon. These certified (a) to the orderly call of the council; (b) to the invitation of the Church, dated Dec. 10, 1951, to Mr. Miller to become their pastor and teacher, and (c) Mr. Miller's letter of acceptance of call, dated Dec. 20, 1951. On motion

VOTED: That these papers be deemed satisfactory.

The candidate then produced the following credentials:
(a) The certificate of his membership in Brimfield Church;
(b) his diploma from WILLIAM JEWELL College, dated May 21, 1945 and a certificate of his graduation from ANDOVER NEWTON Theological Seminary, May 24, 1949; (c) his certificate of licensure by Brookfield Association, dated May 15, 1952.

Upon motion of Rev. Horace Blackford,
VOTED:- That these papers be deemed satisfactory.

The candidate then related to the council (a) his Christian experience and call to the ministry and (b) his views on Christian doctrine. The latter were set forth in a paper which he had prepared, at the close of which he was further examined by the moderator and various members of the council.

At the conclusion of this examination it was
VOTED: That the examination be suspended, and that the council be by itself.

The council being by itself it was
MOVED: That the examination be sustained.
The roll was then called, and vote taken by individual expression. At the conclusion of the calling of the roll the moderator declared the examination to be sustained. It was then

VOTED: That a committee be appointed to examine the candidate and arrange for the public service of ordination and installation. Messrs. Luther Bradley, H. Van Vathaway, Rev. A. Loy Packard, appointed as such committee.

The minutes of the council were then read and, after correction, approved.

The committee, returning, reported the following order of service, which was by vote adopted:

Service of Ordination & Installation of
Rev. N. Miller
To the Christian Ministry,
In the Congregational Churches of
Chesterfield and Goshen, Massachusetts

Sunday, June the Fifteenth
Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-two
Eight o'clock in the Evening
Chesterfield Congregational Church

Order of Service

The Organ Prelude — Mrs. P. T. Brown
"Jesus Joy of Man's Desiring" - Bach

The Opening Hymn, "Glad Tidings" No. 1

The Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Perley C. Grant

Congregational Church, Three Rivers

The Report from the Ordaining Council

Mr. Andrew R. Lamb

Scribe, Brookfield Association

Scripture Lesson

Rev. J. Roy Packard

Congregational Church, No. Brookfield

The Anthem "The Lord's Prayer" Malotte

The Choir

The Ordination Sermon

Rev. John M. Billinsky, D.D.

Professor, Pastoral Psychology

Andover Newton Theological School

The Charge to the Candidate

Rev. George Fisher

Congregational Church, Spencer

The Charge to the Congregation

Rev. George Fisher

The Prayer of Ordination and Installation

Rev. Harold Bentley

Worcester Junior College

The Declaration of the Office Conferred

Rev. Ernest Simon

Congregational Church, South Egremont

The Presentation of Robe and Bible

Rev. Ernest Simon

The Right Hand of Fellowship

Rev. J. Roy Packard

The Closing Hymn

"The Church's One Foundation" No. 39.

The Benediction

Rev. Rufus W. Miller

The Organ Postlude

"Praise Ye The Father" Gounod

It was voted that at the conclusion of the ordination and installation service the moderator declare the council dissolved.

VOTED: That the scribe comp[illegible] the minutes and deliver copies of the same to the candidate, the church, and to the registrar of the

1952 [illegible] Association, the State Conference and the Congregational Library.
VOTED: To take classes until June 15, 1952.

The Council convened at Brimfield June 5, 1952 3.00 P.M. and conducted the public service of ordination and installation in accordance with the foregoing program, and the moderator declared Rev. Lufus T. Miller to be duly ordained as a minister of the gospel, and installed as minister of these Churches, after which the Council dissolved.

(Sig) Martin M. Smith, Moderator
(Sig) Andrew J. Lux, Jr. Scribe

June 15, 1952.

June 22 The Lunenburg Lodge of Masons were guests. St John's Breakfast served in vestry at 7:30 by L.B.S.

June 23-27 Vacation Bible School held for children of school age.

July 6, 13, 20 Rev. Harold Bentley supplied during Mr. Miller's vacation.

Nov. 16 A brief meeting was held following the morning service to consider the admission of new members. It was voted to accept the following into our membership upon their confession of faith.
Charles Cole, Ann Dewey, Geraldine Boutwell, Charlotte Fay, Christine Fay, Ernestine Fay, Patty Whitten, Bette Benjamin.
~~Nov. 23~~ upon reaffirmation of faith Edith Wheaton, Henry Wheaton. by letter Mrs. Alice Clarke, Helen and Keith Hill, Bernice and Richard Ramsay.

Dec 23 The following (16) were received into Church membership. Bette Benjamin, Geraldine Boutwell, Charles Cole, Ann Dewey, Charlotte Fay, Robert Segrin, Patty Whitten (by confession of faith). By reaffirmation of faith, Edith and Henry Wheaton. By letter, Ina Ackerman, Alice Clarke, Helen and Keith Hill, Bernice and Richard Ramsay and Joyce Segrin.

Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Eve Service held in Holland Church, offering given to "Home for Little Wanderers." 70 attended

Dec. 19 Sunday School Christmas Program held in Sanctuary and Vestry

24 United Service of Worship, Vales Baptist Church.

28 Brief meeting following morning service to consider admission of members. It was voted that the following be received into membership:-
Upon Confession of faith:- Herman and Roland Horton,
Upon Reaffirmation of faith: Mrs Electa Mallow
By letter: Mr and Mrs George Gregory, David Gregory, Mr and Mrs. Eugene Klinger, Eugene Jr. and Richard Klinger, Priscilla and Mable Horton

1953
Jan 4 The following (7) were received into our membership.
By letter: Mr and Mrs. George Gregory, David Gregory; Eugene Jr, Richard and Mr and Mrs. Eugene Klinger.

Feb. 20 World Day of Prayer observed by afternoon service 3-5.
22 University of Life, Southbridge. To continue through March 1.
March 1 Collection for flood victims of Europe - $17.

March 29 At meeting following morning service it was voted that the following be received into Church membership.
Mr and Mrs. Henry Eddy, Mr & Mrs Andrew Gondek, Mr & Mrs [illegible]; Mr & Mrs [illegible]; Mr & Mrs [illegible]; Mr & Mrs [illegible], Sherrio.

April 2 The following were received into membership at Maundy Thursday service. (22)
By Letter (9): Andrew and Katherine Gondek from Federated Ch. Warren
Mabel and Priscilla Horton " Methodist Ch. West Warren
Horatio and Belle Norton " Hope Cong. Ch. Springfield
Gladys Lawrence First " Methodist Ch. Southbridge
Mildred Herrington " Methodist Ch. Hoosick Falls N.Y.
Gladys (Laird) Sherrio First Meth. Hartford Conn.
By Profession of Faith: 10
Ethel & Henry Eddy, Ernestine Fay, Joan Herrington, Herman & Roland Horton, Frances* Howlett, Mr & Mrs Gerry Lewis, Simon Sherrio.
By Reaffirmation of Faith (3)
Walter Lawrence, Electa Mallow, Isabelle Smith.
* Frances Howlett was baptized.

Apr 19 and 26 The Call for the Annual Meeting to be held Fri. May 1 was read at morning service and posted on Bulletin board in Vestry. Agenda: Roll Call - Reports - Budget. By-law amendments 1) to effect change of title of Asst Treas to Fin. Sec. 2) to provide for a Christian Ed. Com and a Benevolence Com - Action on opening fall [illegible]

service of pastor - any other business Report of Nominating Com. and election of officers

May 1 The Annual Meeting of the Church held in the Vestry was called at 7:30 P.M. with devotions led by Mr. Miller.

The meeting was then turned over to Moderator Brown.

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read by the Clerk and approved as read.

Roll Call 54 answered to the roll call. Responses were read for 3 absent members. 5 visitors were present.
* See page 1

Treas. Rep. p. 94 The Treasurer's Report was read by Roger Bennett (in absence of Everett Fanden), accepted and filed with Clerk.

Budget p. 94 The Budget was presented by the Chairman of Trustees Charles De Land and it was voted to approve and accept the Budget.

Aud. Rep. p. 94 The Auditor's report was read by Roger Bennett, accepted and filed with Clerk.

Pastor p. 95, 96 The Pastor's Report was read by Mr. Miller, accepted and filed.

Deacons The Deacons gave no report.

Deaconesses A verbal report was given by Hester Sherman, for the Deaconesses, to the effect that the Deaconesses had taken care of serving the Communion and had served as Welcoming Committee.

Lay. Rep. Laymen's Representative Richard Ramsey reported that the Laymen had not actually participated in any project to be reported. He did however, outline the nature, purpose, and objectives of the "Laymen's Council Larger Fellowship" indicating that efforts would be made during the coming year to make the laymen of our Church more conscious of the organization by presenting to them news of the various activities in which they should participate. That one becomes a member upon payment of the annual fee of $1.00 and that the 1953 membership roll for Essex Church is at 4 [illegible].

Pilgrim Fellow. p. 96-97 — The Pilgrim Fellowship report was read by Albert E. Buchensugh, accepted and filed.

Sunday School p. 97-100 — The Sunday School report was read by Assistant Superintendent Evelyn Tilly, accepted and filed.

Music Com. p. 100 — Chairman Healy's Last read the report of the Music Committee which was accepted and filed.

Adv. in Reading — Chairman Ethel Spooner reported verbally that our 4th year Reading was completed with 10 qualifying readers but that many had read from 2 or 3 of the sections. She said that the Town Library has been very cooperative by making many books available.

Jr. BYL — Patty Whitten read the report for the new "By Love Serve" group. This was accepted and filed.

Fidelis p. 100-101 — Bertha Brown read the Fidelis report which was accepted and filed.

LBS p. 101-102 — President Anne Dewey read the report for the LBS. This was accepted and filed.

Men's Club p. 102-103 — The Men's Club Report was read by Chairman Fred Worly. Accepted and filed.

Trustees p. 104-105 — Chairman DeLand read report for Trustees. Perry Keaton reported for the sub. Committee on Ways and Means. Reports accepted and filed.

Old Business — none

New Business — By-law Amendment:

Amend Asst. Treas. to Fin. Sec. — 1) The Clerk read recommendation of Church Cabinet - Because of the nature of the duties of the Assistant Treasurer as outlined in Article VI, Section 9, that the Title of Asst. Treas. be changed to Financial Secretary and that the By-laws be amended by substituting the new title in all places where Assistant Treasurer now appears. (Art. VI Sects 1, 8, 7)

Action: A motion was made by Mr. Buchensugh and seconded "That title of Assistant Treasurer be changed to Financial Secretary and that the By-laws be amended by substituting the title Financial Secretary wherever Assistant Treasurer now appears. Motion carried.

By-Law Amendment 2) The Clerk read the recommendation of the Church Cabinet that a "Christian Education Committee" and a "Benevolence Committee" be established and that the By-Laws be amended to include these Committees under Article VI.

Action Motion made by Mr. Miller that the Church Cabinet be empowered to prepare and present at a duly called Church meeting, properly stated amendments to the Church By-Laws relating to the inclusion of a Committee on Benevolence and a Committee on Christian Education. Motion was seconded and voted.

Re: Acquiring Full Time Services of Pastor "Position of Cabinet on acquiring Full Time Service of Pastor" was read by Clerk :-

The Church Cabinet voted, April 21, after consultation with Rev. Kenneth Beckwith, State Secretary, to submit to the Congregation the idea of acquiring the full time services of our pastor and offers these reasons to substantiate that position.

1. More adequate ministry to the residents of the Community.
2. The Sunday School has the right to expect more assistance which at this time the minister is unable to give.
3. To enable the minister to work more closely with the various organizations of the Church.

At the rate of present growth the increased load in the two Churches will soon be more than one man can handle. The Cabinet therefore recommends that the Church give this matter serious consideration with open discussion of the question at this annual meeting.

It was also reported by the Clerk that the Inter-Church Council, which was established in March, 1952 for the purpose of considering matters of importance to both churches, met on April 23. The Holland members were told of the intention of the Brimfield Cabinet to have the question of the eventual necessity of securing the full time services of the pastor presented to the Congregation at the annual meeting for discussion.

Action: It was moved by Mr. Ramsey that the Church Cabinet be directed to study the possibilities of securing the full time services of the pastor, this to be done in conjunction with the Board of Trustees, and that the Cabinet be directed to make report to the Church before end of June, 1953.

Motion was seconded and voted.

Lay Delegates for year — Lay Delegates to Brookfield Council of Churches (meetings to be held in May and October) elected
Lillian Brown, Nerva Macumber, Mr & Mrs. Gregory.

Lay Delegates to Annual Conference to be held at Hope Church in Springfield, May 18, 19, 20. Elected.
Irene Wright, Evelyn London

Alternate delegates to either Brookfield or Annual Conference
Adline Cole, Ethel Spooner.

Building Loan Fund — Motion by Mr. Miller that we accept the gift suggested to this Church by the Massachusetts Congregational Conference and Missionary Society of $167.00 and that it be paid in annual payments over a period of four years instead of the suggested two years. Seconded by Percy Loveton. After considerable discussion the motion was carried with but one opposing vote.

Clark's resig — Letter of resignation from Trustee Roe S. Clark was read by Clk. Motion by Percy Moore seconded by Roger Bennett and carried That we accept Mr. Clark's resignation with regret.

Bissell's resig. — Letter of resignation from Deacon Frederick Bissell read by Clerk. Motion by De Land seconded by Spooner that Deacon Bissell's resignation be accepted as requested.

Com. Com. — Report of Nominating Committee read by Chairman Mabel Kirce

Deacon for 4 yrs	—	Keith Hill
Deacon for 1 yr (Bissell's unex. term	—	Albert E Birchenough
Deaconess for 4 yrs	—	Ethel Spooner
Moderator 1 yr	—	Roger W. Bennett
Clerk 1 yr		Evelyn R London
Treasurer 1 yr		Clarence H Keith
Financial Secretary 1 yr		Irene Wright
Auditor 1 yr		Richard Ramsey
Sunday School Supt 1 yr		George Gregory
Trustee 3 yrs		Frederick A. Newton
Trustee (Com. [illegible]) 1 & 2 yrs		Percy Loveton
Laymens Representative 1 yr		Richard Ramsey
Chairman Music Committee 1 yr		Gladys De Land

Respectfully submitted

Mabel Kirce Ch., Irene Wright, Chas. De Land

Upon inquiry from Moderator as to whether there were further nominations, the following recommendation of the Cabinet was read by the Clerk.

Mr. Bissell
Mr. Brown

The Cabinet recommends to the annual Meeting of the Church (In accordance with Article VI, Section 1 of By-laws) that Frederick Bissell and Clarence B. Brown be elected Senior Deacons for their outstanding service to the Church.

It will be a long time before there can be found more worthy candidates for this honor. Mr. Bissell has served as Deacon for a term of 24 years while Mr. Brown has served in that capacity for 32 years. (Bissell elected Dec. 18, 1928. Brown elected Jan. 1, 1921)

In addition to their duties as Deacons, which have always been faithfully performed, both have always been active in the affairs of the Church, their names appearing frequently in the records as members of Committees, delegates, etc., etc. Mr. Bissell was Church Auditor for 15 years (1901-15). Mr. Brown was Treasurer of the Parish, before Church and Parish became united, and since the union he has been identified with the Trustees - and for many years has been our Moderator.

These Deacons have another record which few men shall ever be able to attain. The Church records of the last two centuries have not been searched to learn if there have ever been others who might have attained longer membership in this Church, but, these two Deacons have the distinction of having been members of this Church for the greatest number of years of any of our present 167 members. Mr. Bissell united with this Church by letter from the Congregational Church in Norfolk, Connecticut, on May 2, 1897 - 56 years ago tomorrow. Mr. Brown united by Profession of Faith, March 1, 1896 - more than 57 years ago. These two deacons head the list in length of membership with 56 and 57 years of active service to this Church.

The Cabinet recommends that Frederick Bissell and Clarence B Brown be elected Senior Deacons for their outstanding service to this Church.

Action — Motion was made, seconded, and voted that the recommendation of the Cabinet be accepted.

Action — Motion by Klinger seconded by DeLand and voted that report of Nominating Committee be accepted.

Action — Motion by Mrs. DeLand seconded by Mrs. Whitten and voted that Clerk cast 1 Ballot to elect all nominees (Nom. Com. and 2 Sr. Deacons.)

Ballot was cast and slate of officers elected.

Action — Motion made, seconded and voted that Clerk and Minister combine in writing a letter of appreciation to Roe Clark, Frederick Bissell, and Clarence B Brown for faithful service rendered over the years.

Action — Motion made by Wine Cole, seconded Charles DeLand that a letter of appreciation be sent to the retiring Superintendent, Elva Macomber, in appreciation of her service to the Sunday School. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn.
Refreshments served by Pilgrim Fellowship.

Respectfully submitted
Evelyn B. Landers Clerk

* see page 99 Church Membership April 1, 1952 - March 31, 1953

4/1/52	Men	36	70	Total 106
		Accessions		
	Letter	~~Lett~~ 8	8	16
	Prof. of Faith	2	6	8
	Rel. of Faith	1	1	2
		47	105	152
		Removals		
	Letter	2	1	3
	Death		1	1
	Other		1	1
3/31/53	Total	45	102	147
	Letter	2	7	9
	Prof. of Faith	6	4	10
	Rel. of Faith	1	2	3
May 1, 1953		54	115	169

Annual Reports 1952-53

Brimfield, Mass.

May 1, 1953

To the First Congregational Church

Brimfield

Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

I respectfully submit my report of the Church for the fiscal period ending March 31, 1953.

Everett D. Landen

EVERETT D. LANDEN
TREASURER

Pastor: With the exception of three Sundays when he was in vacation, the Minister was at the morning worship service to lead or take part in its conduct. Special services in which he participated were the Sunday School Recital and appropriate services of worship at Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, Mother's Day, Thanksgiving, and Easter.

During the year he conducted 9 funerals, baptized 10 infants and 2 adults, officiated at 3 weddings, and welcomed 26 new members, conducted a radio program monthly, and helped in the leadership of 5 University of Life programs in Southbridge. He made trips to attend conferences and meetings at the following places: 2 at Spencer, 2 at Springfield, 2 at Worcester, and 2 at Framingham.

It is the ministers pleasure to be ex officio member of all Boards and Organizations of the Church and as such he has had the opportunity to become acquainted with the workings of our Church and the many fine and responsible people of whom it is composed and on whom it depends.

He has been most impressed at the reception of the following endeavors which have been started during the past year: The Men's Club, The Wednesday Evening Study Group, The Monthly Church Supper, and the Monthly Church Paper.

It has been a time of invaluable education through experience in the hands of people who have dealt most generously with him on many occasions. On June 15, upon invitation and according to the plans of this Church and the Holland Church, he was ordained in the Christian Ministry, at which time he also received a beautiful pulpit robe and carrying case. Other gifts of food, flowers, furniture and money have continued to express an appreciation for your minister and his family for which he will always stand in debt, and to which he can always look and be certain that he is laboring among real friends.

It is his opinion and it must be stated

RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES

FISCAL YEAR APRIL 1, 1952 - MARCH 31, 1953

Balance, April 1, 1952			$4347.72	
RECEIPTS:				
Pledge Collections		$3045.24		
Plate Collections		1109.04		
Investment Income		1417.25		
Investment Sale		358.34		
Missionary & Benevolences		418.97		
Parsonage Maint. - Contribution		10.00		
Insurance Refunds on Canceled Policies		214.65		
Sunday School:				
Balance Paid over	75.59			
Receipts	152.26	227.85		
Miscellaneous *		137.39	6938.73	$11286.45
EXPENSES:				
Salaries:				
Pastor		2100.00		
Organist		240.00		
Choir Director		240.00		
Janitor		300.00		
Pastor's Travel Allowance		300.00		
Pulpit Supply		60.00		
Light & Power		79.08		
Fuel		549.83		
Parsonage Maintenance		255.21		
Church Maintenance		85.23		
Music		22.34		
Interest		247.85		
Insurance		965.18		
Pastor's & Clerk's Supplies & Expenses		320.76		
Parsonage Improvements & Appliances		2130.71		
Investment Purchases		1393.27		
Sunday School		236.94		
Missionary & Benevolences:				
Against Period - 1/1/52-3/31/52	93.70			
Against Fiscal Year ending 3/31/53	418.97	512.67		
Miscellaneous *		488.86		$10527.93
Balance on hand, April 1, 1953				$758.52

* See Exhibit I

EXHIBIT I

BREAKDOWN OF MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

RECEIPTS:

Pledge envelope purchases	3.65	
Holland Church Contribution to Rev. Miller, Gift, & Reception	35.00	
Edward C. Brandt - Special Contribution - Organ Fund	48.00	
Overage from Rev. Miller Reception	7.40	
Sale of "Upper Rooms"	5.00	
Holland Church - For Supplies	15.34	
Rev. Miller ?	12.00	
Messrs. Ramsey & Hill - for Addressograph	11.00	$137.39

EXPENSES:

Pastor's Gown & Carrying Bag	91.00	
Organ Tuning	48.00	
Ordination Speaker	25.00	
"Upper Room" Purchase	8.75	
Town of Brimfield - Taxes	8.55	
Palmer National Bank - Safe Deposit Box Rent	10.80	
Painting Sign	10.00	
Membership Tax	34.72	
Assistant Treasurer's Supplies	.75	
Communion Accessories	3.50	
Trustees' Expenses - Phone Charges	13.27	
Special Coin Containers	10.96	
Pledge Envelopes & Record Book	30.36	
Pastor's Annuity Payment	193.20	$488.86

5/1/53

SUMMARY OF INVESTMENTS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BRIMFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAY 1, 1953

Stocks	No. of Shares		Market as of 4/29/53	
Am. Tel. & Tel.	30	154-3/4	4642.50	
Boston Edison - Common	10	48½	485.00	
General Electric - Common	30	70½	2115.00	
Loomis-Sayles Mutual Fund	37	36.90	1365.30	
Pacific Gas & Elec. - Common	13	37½	487.50	
Standard Oil of N. J. - Common	108	70-1/8	7573.50	
Southern Calif. Edison - Common	8	35-3/4	286.00	
Union Pacific R.R. - Common	36	107	3852.00	
U. S. Steel - Common	24	40	960.00	
U. S. Steel - 7% Preferred	1	139½	139.50	
Mercantile Realty Co. - Common	1	N.V.	---	
Interborough Consolid. Co. - Common	1	N.V.	---	21906.30
Bond				
Pacific Gas & Elec. 1st Mortgage	3%	91-3/4		917.50
Savings Banks				
Ware Pass Book Number 63988 - Not Identified PD			1103.00	
Palmer Pass Book " 62187 - Hicks Fund ----			575.41	
Palmer Pass Book " 56941 - Not Identified PD			1094.52	
Warren Pass Book " 16380 - Miner Corbin Fund "			231.16	
Warren Pass Book " 16381 - Not Identified "			354.95	
Warren Pass Book " 16382 - Newton S. Hubbard Fund "			500.00	
Monson Pass Book " 20529 - Not Identified "			270.85	
Southbridge " " " 14298 - Not Identified "			128.89	
Southbridge " " " 13310 - E. Clark Marsh Fund "			429.67	
Southbridge " " " 14153 - Foster Fund "			429.67	
Southbridge " " " 36568 - Julia Hubbard Fund "			300.00	5418.12
				$28241.92

5/1/53

May 1, 1953

To the First Congregational Church
Brimfield, Mass.

I hereby certify that I have checked the books of record of the Treasurer, together with contents of the Safe Deposit Box in the Palmer National Bank, as to investment certificates and savings bank passbooks, and find all items to be in agreement with the report of the Treasurer, as submitted.

Roger W. Bennett

ROGER W. BENNETT, AUDITOR

Auditor

Budget

Form 104
5/1/53

that he has had the support and cooperation of all individuals and all organizations of the Church in whatever undertaking he proposed or was called upon to assume.

Thus in the light of the immediate past, and with the continued devotion of all its members and friends we will lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and we will run with patience the race that is set before us, and we will look unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, and He will be our guide.

Rufus W. Miller

Pilgrim Fellowship The first meeting in the fall was held as a sunset worship service and picnic on Bickenough's Knoll at which time officers for the year were elected. The last service of the season will be held there. Regular Sunday evening worship services were held with one meeting a month including a business meeting to work up the following month's program, social and other activities. Number of members is 21.

We attended the University of Life in a body. We were host to 3 other fellowships putting on a spaghetti supper, a worship service and games. We attended the Greenwich Union Rally in Southbridge, a joint meeting in Warren and a social in Southbridge by invitation of the Southbridge Fellowship. We have held one or two socials a month for the purpose of wholesome recreation for the young people of the community. The socials included dances in the vestry, a movie show in the vestry, a roller skating party at Riverside Park, an ice skating party ending with hot dogs, hot chocolate, etc. and dancing, a Valentine Dance, a New Year's Eve Watch Service and Worship Followed by a dance, and a Evening Party to be held tomorrow evening. Forty five to seventy-five community youth attend these socials. A large group went Christmas Caroling on Spooner's bus, as is the custom, then returned to the Church to enjoy hot chocolate along with the goodies presented them. This year we attended a joint Christmas Eve Worship Service in Wales before caroling. Members

attended the Easter Sunrise Service in Sturbridge.

Our missionary work included both Home and Foreign as follows: through the inspiration and efforts of the young people a donation of $47.00 was sent to help the flood victims of the Netherlands, $15.00 to Gould Farm, $10.00 to the Church for mimeograph replacements, etc., a guest book placed in the vestibule, a calendar of monthly events placed in the vestibule, and a very lovely lamp to the minister's family. Some of the members are rendering extra services to the Church wherever they can be of help.

We held a Parent-Teachers meeting jointly with the Sunday School.

We have not found it necessary to accept the appropriation set aside for the use of the Pilgrim Fellowship as we have considerable funds. I would recommend that future appropriations for this organization be stricken from the Church Budget until such time as a need for same should arise.

The young people have charge of the collation this evening.

Total amount of the Pilgrim Fellowship funds to date is $83.49. Of this $73.38 is in the bank, $9.00 is voted to be spent for dance records and $1.11 was last weeks collection. Some of this money will be used to send two youths to camp this summer.

It has been a source of great pleasure and satisfaction to have worked with this splendid group of young people this past year. Our thanks and appreciation go to our pastor, Rev. Mr. Miller for his tireless inspiration and help and driving energy. Our thanks also go out to all others who have helped see groups in any way.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Birkenough

Sunday School Oct 31, 1952 - May 1, 1953

Sunday School opened October 3, 1952 with 10 teachers 2 assistants, 80 pupils enrolled with an average attendance of 56-70. The enrollment includes 18 in the main Sunday School and we have 20

Ann Mtg 5/1/53

S. S. Rept

our new Cradle Roll, total enrollment 18.

In excellent response to our Thanksgiving offering $75.00 in cash and 35-40 boxes of food was sent to the Home for Little Wanderers. I would again like to thank Mr. Brown for delivering the food.

Our Vacation Bible School also sent $10.00 to Gould Farm as a missionary project.

Our regular S.S. voted $10.00 from missionary funds to Flood Area Campaign. The Lenten Offering was $15.00. This will go to the State Building and Loan Dept. this being our first payment. It was decided at our last Teachers' meeting that our Lenten Offerings for the next two to four years will go to this fund.

Teachers meetings have been held monthly at the homes of the teachers.

Organizations:- Church Nursery has been organized this year and we trust it has been helpful to our parents by assisting them to attend Church. A Junior Choir also, under the direction of Mrs Mary Kelly, is another group we are happy to say is coming along nicely. We have (in our) Sunday School this year the Work Shop Girls - or the B.L.S. Class, who are the seniors of the S.S., and this group is for the service of our Church or wherever they might be of service. In S.S. they have charge of the papers, collection and attendance. They also assist the teachers with large classes. They serve at the parsonage for the Church suppers, and also in the Church Nursery. They bought and served refreshments to the Choir girls after one of their meetings this year. They had classes only Thursday in their homes of lessons material - the choice of the group. They are now working on a project for the Gould Farm. We have very few girls in this group but I believe you will agree, that as to this point they are well within the law, in keeping up to their name

S. Report

"By Love Serve". We would like the Church to remember that this group is at the service of our Church whenever they are needed. Please call any one of these girls if you can use their service in the church. Patty Whitten, Sandra Carpenter, Mary Bruce, Patty Benjamin, Charlotte Fox.

Our Christmas Party was Dec. 19 and we want to thank all other groups of the Church for their assistance in making it such a happy event.

New curtains for the Vestry for the purpose of making separate Class rooms are now in process of being made. They will be up by Children's Day, after hanging they will be fire-proofed.

We also would like to thank the person responsible for the Furnace hanging in the front of the Vestry. It has been greatly admired by our Children and many others.

The Parent and Teachers night was March 20.

Our S.S. supplies for this year have been the Presbyterian course of Home and Church Study.

Our offering did not come up to the same amount as of last year and in comparison of increases in our Department we were really behind.

The large Bible, which you may look at at any time we respects, on the Vestry pulpit was presented to the S.S. by Mr. Gordon Rice, it really is a beautiful gift. "Thank you, Mr. Rice".

At this point I would like to thank all the teachers and our B.C.S Class for their faithful assistance and good work with me since I took the S.S. But I did ask the Nominating Committee to appoint a man for the supt. of the school and I am very happy that Mr. Gregory has accepted the nomination. I believe this change is for the betterment of the Sunday School and will also give more Courage to many more Loyal parents. I hope all our teachers will give Mr. Gregory the same faithful support they gave me.

S. S. Report. Miss Evelyn Tulip has decided to leave us to get married. I'm sorry they will miss her good works - both as a teacher and Asst. Supt.

Respectfully submitted
S. S. Supt. Vera Newcomer

Music Com. Report. The Adult Choir of fifteen to eighteen voices has sung on all the special Sundays during the year, and several other Sundays also.

The Junior Choir has sung several times thru the year.

The Music Committee has again acquired the services for the coming year of Mrs. Philip Benjamin as Music Director and Mrs. Phillip Brown as Organist.

Mrs. Fred Varby has agreed to continue giving her services to the directing of the Junior Choir.

Respectfully submitted
Chairman, Music Com. Gladys D. DeLand

B.C.S. Report. The group was organized Jan. 8, 1953 at the home of Mrs. Newcomer. The purpose of the organization is to help our church to improve and may be service. Some of our activities are - aid in the Sunday School (taking care of S. S. papers, collection and attendance), we helped the teachers with big classes, and also helped with the children at its parsonage. We were asked to serve the Conference refreshments April 16 and would like the Church to realize that we are here to help whenever needed.

Respectfully submitted
Betty Witten

Fidelis Report. The Fidelis has completed another year of service to our Church and Community. We have had the misfortune to lose another active member of our group, Mrs. Clark. We are still carrying on our work with many little helps. We added two members this year. Our Christmas Tree Project was very successful this year and we wish to thank all those who helped to make it so.

Fidelis Rep. Cont.

Our sunshine boxes also helped a lot to make that success. Each member was to earn $2.00 and turn in to Treasurer.

In 1952-3 we gave $50.00 to the Church for General Expenses; bought 50 new Hymn Books, $76.50; gave $10.00 to Heart Fund; $10.00 to Red Cross, $5.00 to Grange Home & Community Service; $5.00 to Church Hill Project.

Respectfully submitted
Bertha P. Brown Sec.

Ladies Secretary's Report

From June 7, 1952 to April 30, 1953 total membership of Society is 55 active members, 7 inactive, and 7 new members.

During the year the following receipts from various rummages, Bridge card sales, and Card Party were had:

Strawberry Supper	91.85	
Masonic Breakfast	17.73	
Alumni Luncheon	21.50	
Harvest Supper	62.06	
Tables for Banquet	54.27	
Easters for Lobster	21.10	
Mens Chr Suppers (3)	74.53	(19.80; 44.36; 14.37)
Ministers luncheon	7.43	34.17
Teas and Sales		47.—
Card Party		29.59
Dues		115.10
Total Receipts		523.56

Disbursements

Donations: Grange Community Party	5.—	
F.T.A. Scholarship	2.50	
Donations: Xmas Candy for Sunday School	6.36	
Visiting Nurses	3.—	
Red Cross	3.—	
Cancer Fund	3.—	
Heart Fund	3.—	
Teas & Donations for Church	6.71	
Save the Children Federation	10.—	42.64
Choir Robes for Church	45.04	
Church Benevolences: " " Collars	10.55	
Luncheon for Lobsterbake	3.—	
Communion Cups	3.—	
" Lobster Bake	9.16	85.75
Missionary Work: General Theological Library	10.—	
Congregational Library	10.—	
Gould Farm	5.—	

LBS	Second Mile Gift (collection)	1.51	
Rep. Cond.	University of Life supper	3.10	
(Missionary)	Luncheon for Church workers	16.40	22.01
Misc.	2 roll table paper	11—	
	two paper napkins	.50	
	Lunch Counter	10.—	
	Speaker for year	25.—	
	Board - fuel for visiting Church	1.00	50.00
	Total disbursements		318.10
	Balance on hand, as of May 1, 1953		235.75

Our monthly meetings have been held regularly with speakers on Bible, Missionary, Stewardship, Religion, Family Relations, and Temperance, with a few social get-together. We had one "Meet the Writers" in writing prompts from Scotland, Wales, and also Land Rhodesia.

Donations to the LBS were: electric refrigerator from Edna Miller; 6 linen napkins from Patrice MacDonald, from Hazel Hill; paint to be used on Chair Table Chest, and a bed travel from each member.

The Cabinet suggested it would be nice to have members greet people attending Church, so we formed a Greeting Committee with members from the LBS. It was also decided to give the janitor $4.00 for the extra work caused by after serving suppers; payments to follow each supper.

Our unfinished project is the Kitchen Floor. We hope to complete this project before retiring from office.

My sincere thanks to all who have cooperated and helped during my year.

Respectfully submitted
Fran J. Davey, President

Mrs. Rae Thu Clark was the chairman of a group of men who met on April 20, 1952, to see if an organization could be formed to benefit the Church and the Community, and to create more friendship among the men of the parish of the Church.

Reno Club
cont

At meeting on May 13, 1952 a committee was appointed to draw up a set of by laws and to select a nominating committee. The Committee consisted of the following men: Frederick Bond, Joyce Miller, Ernest Willette, Philip Carpenin, and John Connell.

Nominating and elected to office were: Fred Worley, Geo. Perry Maston, Treasurer, Andrew Andrews, Treas., and Georgie, Sec.

The club was organized with a membership of 30 men and has grown to a membership of 46.

The meetings have been preceded by a supper and followed by an entertainment.

The first meeting after organizing was held Sept. 8, 1952. The Men's Club has, during its first year, striven to do a number of things, and has been quite successful. We sponsored the Father/Son Banquet, and although this has been an annual affair, we were proud to have the honor of being a part of it. We have also sponsored a Boy Scout Troop in Grinfield inviting boys and men to join. The enrollment at this time is about 45 boys. They are under the leadership of Mr. Keith, and a member of our club is very kindly accepted the office of Scoutmaster.

We voted to sponsor a 4-H group which is under the direction of Mr. Perry Maston, another member of this Club.

Last, but not least, a Sports Night was held. We thought this would be enjoyed by the male members of all the families in town, but it seemed just to be an extra family night and I think the ladies enjoyed the entertainment only as much as the men. We sincerely hope to make Sports Night an annual affair.

Our next meeting, May 1, 1953 will be election of officers. Respectfully submitted,

[illegible]

Trustees Report

Despite the attendance, interest and cooperation of our Board of Trustees together - the contributions and the accomplishments of the past year could not have been at all favorable. The Cancer of our Treasury, debts & dues has been extremely serious. We may count upon the Lord and we shall do what we can minister.

We are not happy to see Mr. Rev Clark, as a member, due to his change in residence - and we shall miss Mrs James & Rev. Bob. Despite this loss, we have given able, faithful and faithful service.

Among the accomplishments of the past year we note the raising of the assessment on the Church and its contribution to a much more realistic coverage (still not adequate - and a great thing for the people of the Church to think about)

Also is the demand for a definite increase in the amount of money required to remain in Church this year. The Trustees decided to appoint a "Ways and Means" Committee with Mr. Percy Weston and Mrs. Percy Wright as Co-Chairmen assisted by Mrs. Harold Carty, Mr. Alice Mathews, Mr. Geo. J. Gregory and Mr. Richard Ramsay. Upon their Committee has worked with the Trustees, and have efficiently they have conducted the Every Member Canvass you all know.

Excerpt from Ways and Means Committee Report: -
"The portion of the current budget to be raised by pledges was increased 5% over 1952 to a figure of $5600.- In addition pledges in the amount of $500.- were required for Benevolences.

The following are results to date:
Budget Class. & General Expenses $5,099.-
" " Benevolences 152.-
Gen. Exp. receipts by 3/31 - Dec 4 352

Trustee's Report Cont'd

It is estimated that an additional $[illegible] will be called to pursue future pledges by those not yet [illegible]."

The Church structure will be repaired and painted this year, thanks to your splendid response and financial support of our proposed budget and as the church glistens in its new coat of white may it be symbolic of that well-known verse of scripture "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven".

This is your Church.

Charles A. Lord Ch. Trustee

May 3 A special Recognition service was conducted honoring retiring Church Officers. In the afternoon several members as well as Pastor and delegates attended the Brookfield Association Meeting in Spencer.

May 24 The American Legion, Legion Auxiliary, and Scouts were invited guests for Memorial Sunday Service. Church Officers for the coming year were installed by Mr. Miller.

May 31 Childrens Day Program and baptism of twelve children.

June 7 Baccalaureate Sunday

June 14 Call for Special Church Meeting to be held Friday, June 19 at 7:30 PM, in vestry for purpose of considering

1. Obtaining the full time service of our pastor.
2. Amendments of Church by-laws to include a Benevolence Committee and a Christian Education Committee.
3. To transact any other necessary business that may be properly transacted.

By vote of Church Cabinet, June 3, 1953.

Pastor and delegate attended Ordination of Herbert B. Perry Jr. in Oakham Congregational Church at 3.00 PM.

June 19 Special Church Meeting held June 19, 1953 in Vestry. Called June 14. 34 members present.

After opening the meeting with a brief devotional service, Mr Miller turned the meeting over to Moderator Roger Bennett and withdrew.

The Moderator read the items to be considered as listed

1953 June 19

in the Call for the meeting. (see attached)

SPECIAL CHURCH MEETING to be called June 14,

Meeting to be held on Friday, June 19, 7.30 P. M., in Vestry, for purpose of considering

1 Obtaining the full time service of our pastor.

2 Amendments of Church By-laws to include a Benevolence Committee, and a Christian Education Committee.

3 To transact any other necessary business that may be properly transacted.

By vote of Church Cabinet, June 3, 1953.

Item 1 OBTAINING THE FULL TIME SERVICE OF OUR PASTOR.

The Cabinet and Trustees are in agreement that we should have the full time services of our minister as of September 15, 1953.

To help the Church meet the additional expense during this fiscal year, the Ways and Means Committee is developing money-raising plans.

The help of all members and friends of the Church will be necessary.

Item 2 AMENDMENTS OF CHURCH BY-LAWS TO INCLUDE A BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE, AND A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Recommended Amendments to ARTICLE VI

Section 17: Benevolence Committee: There shall be a Benevolence Committee consisting of the Pastor and the Financial Secretary EX OFFICIIS; one member from each of the following organizations, Pilgrim Fellowship, Sunday School, Ladies Benevolent Society, Fidelis, and any other organization which may be recommended by the Cabinet; and three elected members, one of whom shall be elected at each annual meeting to serve for three years, except that the initial Committee, after adoption of this amendment, shall be appointed by the Cabinet, having one member to serve until May 1, 1954, one to serve until May 1, 1955, and one to serve until May 1, 1956. The aim shall be to secure representation on this committee of all departments naturally concerned in benevolences. This committee shall have in charge the supervision and correlation of the benevolence plans of the church, and shall suggest through the Trustees the annual budget of benevolences, together with objects for regular or special offerings throughout the year, and oversee all matters of apportionment of funds for benevolences. Subject to any direction the church may give, it shall direct the distribution of benevolence funds. It shall assist in promoting missionary interest and systematic giving to benevolences. It shall cooperate with the Committee of Christian Education in missionary education programs, and, above all, shall seek to inculcate the ideals of Christian stewardship. The Chairman shall be a member of the Church Cabinet. The Committee shall prepare a report for the annual meeting of the Church.

Section 18: Christian Education Committee: There shall be a Christian Education Committee consisting of the pastor and Sunday School Superintendent EX OFFICIIS, and three elected members, one of whom shall be elected at each annual meeting to serve for three years, except that the initial committee after adoption of this amendment, shall be appointed by the Cabinet, having one member to serve until May 1, 1954, one to serve until May 1, 1955, and one to serve until May 1, 1956. This committee shall have supervision and direction of the education work of the church. It is authorized to nominate a Superintendent of the Sunday School and submit said nomination to the Nominating Committee. It shall have charge of the Sunday School, with full power to appoint and remove teachers and also Christian Education Officers not otherwise provided for; also to inaugurate and maintain other religious educational activities. The Committee shall cooperate in the education aspects of social service and benevolences. It shall determine the appropriation of funds contributed by the Sunday School, with the advice of the school and subject to direction of the Church. It shall prepare a report for the annual meeting of the Church. Its Chairman shall be a member of the Church Cabinet.

Section 1 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES:

That Chairman of Benevolence Committee and Chairman of Christian Education Committee be added to list of officers.

Section 11 SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL:

That words Church Cabinet (at end of first sentence) be changed to Christian Education Committee.

Section 14 CHURCH CABINET:

That Benevolence Committee, Christian Education Committee be inserted (after Board of Deaconesses).

ARTICLE VII--last sentence be amended to read:

Each Officer, Board, Committee, and Organization shall prepare a report for the annual meeting which shall be presented at that meeting by a member of the Church.

1953
June 19

Item 1:

Motion Motion by Keith Hill: That the Church secure the full time services of our present minister, Rufus A. Miller, as of Sept. 15, 1953 at a salary equal to the combined salaries now being paid by both Churches. Seconded by George Gregory.

Discussion Chairman of Trustees, Charles DeLand, pointed out that the Trustees were unanimously in favor of this action that the Ways and Means Committee which the Trustees had appointed to conduct the Every Member Canvass had been empowered by the Trustees to develop plans for raising additional funds to take care of the amount necessary for extra salary expenditure (about $500.00) for balance of fiscal year, and that the Ways and Means Committee were already working enthusiastically on projects.

Chairman of Ways and Means, Jane Knight, reported that the proceeds from the supper served June 13 - their first project - had netted $75.00 and she then read the proposed schedule for the summer which included fish fries and suppers.

Jane Lowry reported that $1,750.00 had been voted to the Ways and Means Committee at annual meeting of the WSA.

Mr. DeLand then pointed out that with $1,750.00 already available, the balance necessary to be raised would be but a little over $500.00.

It was further pointed out that during the Every Member Canvass several contributors had stated that if the full time services of Mr. Miller were obtained, that they would increase their pledges.

Mr. Klingler estimated that if everyone were to increase his pledge 10 cents per week that the required amount would be over subscribed.

Action Voted unanimously.

Motion by Mrs. Ramsey: That the Church body now in session extend an invitation to

Pastor V. Miller for his full time services to become effective September 15, 1953. Seconded by Dana Wright.
Action Voted unanimously.

Item 2: The recommended amendments were again read by Moderator Bennett.
Motion by George Gregory - seconded by Gladys DeLand that these amendments be adopted.
Discussion pointed out that the services of the suggested Committees are needed but not provided for in our present by-laws.
Action Voted unanimously

Meeting adjourned.

Evelyn B. Linden, Clerk

June 21 The Gray Spring Lodge of Masons and Carrie A. Cushing Chapter, Order of Eastern Star of Monson were guest at the morning worship. They were served a St Johns Breakfast, in the Vestry at 9:30 am.

June 21 A special meeting was held following the morning service to vote upon candidates for Church membership

The Church voted to accept the following subject to approval of Deacons: (36)
Mr and Mrs Robert Ainsworth; Mrs. Mabel Brown; Howard and Kenneth Brown; Mary and Robert Bruce, Jr. Mr and Mrs. William Cabisius; Sandra Carpenter; Mr. and Mrs. William Cox; Mr and Mrs. Clark Hayward; Richard Hayward; Norman Howlett; Mrs Victor Howlett; George Klingler; Mrs. Bertha Lapean; Mrs. Mary Lawrence; Richard Martin; Mr and Mrs. Frank Nilson; Evelyn Parker; Mrs Ruth Parker; Ralph Plumley; Mrs. Lillie Roy; Mrs George Stickney; Penny and Sharon Lee Stickney; Maude Stone; Mrs. Effie Swetzer; Margery and Nancy Wood; Carol Wright; Herbert Wright.
Meeting adjourned. Evelyn B. Linden, Clerk.

Pastor and delegate attended Ordination of Lewis F. Wentworth at Charlton, Federated Church at 4:00 P. M.

The following were received into membership:

3 By Letter Joan Chinworth (Mrs. Robt.) from First Baptist, Fall River, Mass.
" Robert Chinworth from Central Congregational, Fall River, Mass
Clark Hayward from no letter Ref.
Jean Hayward (Mrs. Clark) from no letter Ref.
Bertha Kapean (Mrs Thomas) from Federated Church, Warren Mass.
Evelyn V. Parker from First Universalist, Monson, Mass
Mabel Stickney (Mrs. George) from First Baptist, Haverhill, Mass
Beverly Stickney from First Baptist, Haverhill, Mass
Sharon Lee Stickney from First Baptist, Haverhill, Mass.
Maude Stone from Congregational, Stockbridge, Mass
Effie P. Switzer from First Universalist, Monson, Mass.
Enoch Wright from ? no letter - Ref
Frank Wilson from First Congregational, Milton, Mass.

2 - profession of faith Mabel Brown; Howard Brown; Kenneth Brown; Mary Bruce; Robert Bruce, Jr.; Barbara Howlett Cadieux; William Cadieux; Sandra Carpenter; Nancy Edwards Cop; William Cop; ~~Jea~~ Richard Hayward; George Klingler; Mrs. Mary Lawrence; Richard Martin; Mrs. Frank Nilson; Mrs. Robert Parker; Ralph Phinney; Phillip Roy; Georgia Vail; Nancy Vail; Herbert Wright; Christine Roy.

July 18 The Church and Sunday School Picnic was held at Smith's "Hideaway" on Tower Hill.

Nov. 4 Special Church Meeting was called to order in Vestry at 4:30 (22 members, 1 visitor in attendance) the meeting having been duly called Nov. 1 - the following items of business appearing in the call.

1 - To receive reports of newly formed Committees
2 - To take action on our responsibility regarding the Framingham Conference Center Fund.
3 - To take action on keeping Church unlocked at all times.

Mr. Miller opened the meeting and read the items to be considered as listed in the call.

In the absence of Roger Bennett it was necessary to elect a temporary Moderator. Mr. Miller was nominated. It was moved, seconded, and voted that nominations be closed. Mr. Miller presided.

Item 1 - Reports of Committees:-

Benevolence Committee report was read by Mrs. Macumber, Sec. of the Com.

Item 1
Ben. Com.
Report

Benevolence Committee Report

The Benevolence Committee met and organized Sept. 30, 1953 with Henry Wheaton President, Mrs Ethel Eddy Vice president and Mrs Verva Macumber Secretary. The balance of the Committee is composed of the following representatives.

Sunday School - Mrs Aline Cole
Pilgrim Fellowship - Betty Benjamin
L.B.S. - Mrs Bernice Ramsey
Fidelis - Mrs Mabel Prince
Mr. Miller and Fin. Sec. Irene Wright members ex-officio

Our first regular meeting was held at the parsonage on Oct. 14 with Rev. George Fisher of Spencer as guest speaker. He outlined the purposes of our organization - to help others, at home and abroad - pointing out that we may choose our own objectives. Some items mentioned were: Aiding students who wish to train for religious work. Money is loaned ~~to~~ and repaid after graduation without interest. This fund ~~is~~ also used to establish Chaplains in Colleges etc. These being uses to which our missionary dollars are put when they are sent in to headquarters.

However, it is quite possible for us to select a project through the Board and have our giving applied toward the support of a certain mission, missionary or project. Spencer Church has 'adopted' a native African missionary.

Our benevolent quota is figured at the rate of 6 cents per member per Sunday. It is hoped that the goal will be reached.

Our next meeting will be open to all members and friends of the Church. It will be held in the Vestry Nov. 18. It will feature a film "More for Peace". Refreshments will be served.

Verva Macumber, Sec.

Ch. Ed. Com. Report

Chairman of Christian Education Committee, Keith Hill reported verbally.

1- The teachers of the Sunday School attended 5 Monday night training meetings in Leon.

Five attended every session - from 8-15 at each meeting.
2- An Adult Sunday School Class is now being held every Sunday morning in the Sanctuary with Richard Ramsey as teacher. They are basing their study on Harry Emerson Fosdick's book "Understanding the Bible". It is hoped and expected that the group will increase in numbers.
3. Sunday School is running a contest (pupils R-G Red - H-Z-Blue). Losers to entertain winners at a Christmas party. This contest eliminates awards for attendance - the Cross and Crown pins will not be awarded this year for attendance.
4 Sunday School attendance has averaged about 80.
5 Sunday School material being used is published by the Presbyterian Press, this course of study being been decided upon after careful consideration by the 1952 Committee after examining courses offered by Congregational, Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian publishing houses. Its use was continued this year and although somewhat difficult for some, because of background, it is hoped that by the end of the 3 year period much of this background deficiency will be corrected and the younger pupils will be well started.

Ad. Rd. 6. Adventures in Reading Program: is continuing. The library is open every Sunday after Church so that all who wish to do so may obtain and exchange books at that time.

Advance 7. "Advance": Seventeen subscriptions to our Congregational magazine have been given to Mr. Miller which makes it possible for each subscriber to receive the magazine for 1 year. (22 issues) at the reduced rate of $2.00.

(Report by Mr. Nice)

Sunday School Supt. Gregory expressed his appreciation of the assistance given the Sunday School by the Christian Education Committee.

Board of Ushers Mr. Benjamin reported that a group of 12 had agreed to usher. Half of these are of High School age - the other half are adult men, so far the group is functioning according to schedule.

Item 2 Conf. Ctr. Letter was read by Mr. Miller from the Conference Center Fund Chairman reminding us that the amount of $115.00 would be due on 12/31/53. (In 1950 each church was asked to raise $1.7 per member and turn this amount

1953

Jan. 5 Conf. Ce Fund

owe to the Conference Treasurer by 12/31/53. Our membership at that time was 115). Statement was also read showing how much was spent and how much left due to disbanded Church in the Brookfield ~~Conference~~ Conf. Since nothing has been paid by our Church this matter was taken up for discussion to determine what we would do about it.

After several suggestions of how to raise the amount the following action was taken. Motion by Hill seconded by R. Brown and voted. That we pledge at least 115.00 and that an appeal and envelope for contribution for this purpose be made in the next issue of "Tidings" and if sufficient funds are not received from this source that they be supplemented by unassigned plate collections.

Motion

Clerk was instructed to write to Conference Center Chairman reporting our action.

Item 3 Keeping Church Unlocked at all times. Discussion of this question was opened but due to lack of time for sufficient debate before deciding the issue it was voted (Motion by Lewis seconded Brown) to table the matter until a further probably announced business meeting.

Motion

Meeting adjourned

Evelyn B. Landen, Clerk

Nov. 22 Special Church meeting was held following the morning service to vote on list of candidates for Church membership. The meeting was called to order by Moderator Roger Bennett. Letter from the Board of Deacons recommending the following candidates was read: Hasley Martin, Edna Martin (Mrs. H.O.), Robert Martin, Ila Hoyt.

It was moved, seconded, & voted that these candidates be accepted for Church membership.

Meeting adjourned. E. Landen, Clerk.

Nov. 25 A special meeting was called to take action on another candidate for Church membership. As soon as 15 (quorum) had assembled the Deacons recommended Alma Howlett as an approved candidate. Motion by Everett Landen, seconded by Fred Worley and vote that Mrs. Howlett be accepted. Meeting adjourned.
E B Landen, Clerk

Nov. 25. At the annual Thanksgiving Eve Service the following were received into membership.

H. Wesley Martin by affirmation of faith
Edna Martin (Mrs H W) " "
Robert Martin "
Norman L. Howlett "
Alma Howlett (Mrs. N. L.) "
Anna Howlett (Mrs. Victor) "
Miss Ida M. E. Hoyt "

Reception of members was followed by Communion Service.

1954 Feb 3. The meeting opened with devotions led by Rev. Miller in the Church vestry at 7.30 with 45 members present.

The agenda was read by Mr. Miller and the meeting turned over to Moderator Roger Bennett.

Benevolent Committee report was read by Henry Wheaton and accepted:

"The Benevolent Committee reports that they have studied the benevolent out-reach of the Church and have consulted the various agencies of our denomination in an effort to learn how our Church can best strengthen its Benevolent program.

We recommend that our Church adopt various projects whereby our benevolent funds will go to specific areas of need. This will clarify to us the work our funds accomplish and increase our interest.

We recommend that the Christian Orphanage at Jongnae, Korea and the Ryder Memorial Hospital at Humacao in Puerto Rico be two of the areas that receive our benevolent money. Puerto Rico is a Home Mission project and Korea is a Foreign Mission project."

Henry C. Wheaton, Ch. Ben. Comm.

Feb. 3 Cont.: Points 1 - "Increase Fellowship"
2 - "Raise Standards of Membership"
were discussed at length and clarified by Rev. Miller, there was no action taken on either point.
The meeting was closed at 9:10 P.M.
Jene Wright, Sec. pro tem.

April 11 At a special meeting held following the morning service it was voted, upon recommendation from Board of Deacons, to receive Mr. William T. Macumber into membership, by letter from the Pleasant Street Baptist Church of Worcester.
Meeting adjourned. Evelyn B. Landen, Clerk.

April 15 William T. Macumber was received into fellowship at the morning service.

April 25 May 2 The call for the Annual Church Meeting to be held in the vestry, Friday, May 7, at 7:30 P.M. was read from the pulpit and notice posted in vestibule.

May 7
Annual Meeting The Annual Meeting of the Church, held in the vestry May 7, 1954, opened at 7:30 with devotions by Mr. Miller. The meeting was then turned over to Moderator Roger Benne

Min. of A.M. The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved.

Spec & Bus The minutes of Special and Business meetings held during the year (June 19, 28, Nov. 4, 22, 25, Feb 3) were read and approved.

Roll Call 50 members answered to the Roll Call. Responses were made for two absent members. Membership on March 31 consisted of 69 M, 136 W, a total of 205. We received 64 new members during year, lost 6 making a net gain of 58. There were 18 baptisms and 8 Marriages during the year.

Treas. The Treasurer's Report was read by Clarence Keith. Moved by Motion and seconded that report be accepted. Question ~~arose~~ ~~regarding~~ regarding Stocks and Bonds, there has been no change in either during the year. Acceptance of report was voted. Report filed with Clerk.

Fin. Sec. The Financial Secretary gave no report.

Aud. The Auditor, Richard Brown, read his report which was
p. 117 accepted and filed with clerk.

Pastor Mr. Miller read the Pastor's Report for the year which was
p. 117 accepted and filed.

Dea. The Deacons Report was read by Keith Hill, accepted and
p. 118 filed with Clerk.

Deaconesses The Deaconesses filed no report, but Chairman Hester Sherman
reported that the Board had prepared the Communion
elements throughout the year.

Ushers Report of Board of Ushers was read by Chairman
p. 118 Philip Benjamin, accepted, and filed.

Lay. Rep. There was no report from Laymens Representative.

Ed. Comm. Report of Christian Education Committee was read
p. 118 by Keith Hill, accepted, and filed.

S.S. Superintendent George Gregory read the report of
pp. 121 and 142 the Sunday School which was accepted and
filed.

B.L.S. Report of 'By Love Serve' group was given by Irene
p. 142 Wright, accepted and filed.

P.F. Report of Pilgrim Fellowship was read by Albert
pp. 143-4 Birchenough, accepted, and filed

Adv in Read. Report for 'Adventures in Reading' project was
pp. 144-5 read by Ethel Spooner, accepted, and filed.

Ben. Com. The Benevolence Committee, read by Chairman
pp. 145-6-7 Henry Wheaton was accepted and filed.

Mus. Com Chairman Gladys DeLand read report of Music Committee
to 147 which was accepted and filed.

L.B.S. The L.B.S. report read by Alice Clarke was accepted and filed
pp. 147-8

Fid. The Fidelis report read by Mabel Pierce was accepted and filed.
p. 148

Mens — The Mens Club gave no report.

Trustees Jp 150-1 — The Trustees report, read by Chairman DeLand was accepted and filed.

Delegates -p 151 — ~~It was voted that matter of securing delegates to State Conference and Brookfield association, be referred to Church Cabinet.~~

Old — Report of Delegate to Brookfield Conference, Eva Masumber, was accepted and filed.

Old: — Matter from meeting of Nov. 4 – "Shall Church remain open at all times?" was brought up.
Voted that question be tabled until the next duly called business meeting of the church. (Hill and seconded)

New: — Budget: After the reading of the budget several questions arose and the following actions resulted.

Action — Motion by Hill, seconded and voted that "Benevolence Budget" be increased from $600.00 to $900.00.

Mr. Miller moved that $200.00 for "Unidentified Expense" be increased to $900. (An increase of $700.00 over amount as read so as to take care of items other than snow removal, care of lawn etc.) There was no second to the motion. [redacted]

Budget — [redacted] ~~After much~~ discussion the situation was clarified it being pointed out that the amounts budgeted could be changed at any time by Church vote. [redacted] Mr. Hill then moved that item of "Church Maintenance and Repair" be increased from $750.00 to $1450.00 (thus providing the extra $700.00). This motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and voted.

Motion made by Mr. Benjamin, seconded by Mr. Klingler and voted that budget, with adjustments, be approved (unanimously)

Stairs — Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded, and voted that the Trustees study our stairway difficulties, secure estimates on proposed improvements, and report to Church at a duly called Church meeting on or before July 7.

1954
Ann. Meet.
May 7

Ch. Ser. during July & Aug.

Mr. Miller moved that Church Service during July and August be set at 10 instead of 11 o'clock.
Before motion was seconded Everett Landen moved to table the motion. This motion was seconded. Following debate Mr. Landen and his second withdrew their motion. Original motion was then seconded and was defeated.

Mr. Miller moved that the Church Cabinet be empowered to appoint 4 delegates to the Brookfield Association, 2 delegates to the State Conference, and 2 alternates to either. seconded by Klingler, and voted.

Resignation of Deacon Hill was read by the Moderator. Motion by Percy Moore and seconded that we accept Mr. Hills resignation as requested. Voted.

Report of Nominating Committee was read by Mr. Hill:

Moderator	for 1 year	Roger Bennett
Clerk	for 1 year	Evelyn Landen
Treasurer	for 1 year	Clarence Keith
Financial Secretary	for 1 year	Irene Wright
Auditor	for 1 year	Richard Brown
S. S. Supt.	for 1 year	George Gregory
Laymens Representative	1 year	Gerry Lewis
Music Comm. Chairman	1 year	Gladys De Land
Deacon	for 4 years	Henry Eddy
Deacon	for 3 years to replace Hill	Arthur Brown
Deacon ~~[illegible]~~	for 4 years	Beatrice MacConnell
Benevolence Com. ~~[illegible]~~	3 years	Edith MacGillivray
Christian Ed. Com.	3 years	Olive Weston
Trustee	3 years	Philip Benjamin

Motion by Moore seconded by Gregory and voted that report of nominating Committee be accepted ~~[illegible]~~ and that Clerk cast 1 ballot for slate of officers as read.

Meeting adjourned 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted
Evelyn B. Landen

1954
118
Ann. Mect
Reports.

Treasurer
&
Auditor

1954
Ann. Meet
Reports

Pastor

If our Church should ever reach the level where there were no more room for improvement in its Christian Education of Young People and Adults, and its service to local residents as well as foreign neighbors, then and only then could it say, "We're good enough! Lets go on like we are."

During the past year our Church has made an attempt to improve its three major functions - Worship, Education, and Service. In the area of Worship, a Head Usher was appointed and the Board of Ushers was formed to assist in the conduct of our worship services. This has been a help in more ways than can be listed here. With the organization of the Committees on Benevolence and Christian Education, these two areas of our Church life began to receive more appropriate attention. The effect of these Committees has been felt and will continue to show us what our opportunities and responsibilities are.

Probably the major change of policy during the year was the termination of the yoked relationship with the Holland Church in the support of and services from the Minister. Beginning Sept. 15, the Brimfield Church has maintained a full time minister. There had been little question about the need for a full minister, but there was some question about the financial ability of this community of Protestants to support one. In my estimation the change has been accomplished without undue hardship on anyone, and again the Brimfield Church can consider itself a self-supporting and independent Church. I look upon this as a definite step forward.

The variety of Church activities should have given every friend and member an opportunity to be a crowd as well as an invitation to serve. That is our goal and where it is not reached, we must improve.

I have learned much through some of the successes and failures of the year. And I have found that there continues to be forgiveness on the part of the Church people for all that I have done poorly, or in error.

This report would not be complete without expressing thanks to all those who have served so unselfishly and often unrecognized to the end that our Church may be a strong hand of God. May it be more so in the year ahead.

Rufus W. Miller

Deacons

During the 1953-1954 Church year the Deacons served in the following capacities:-

1. Assisting in the administration of the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
2. Approval of candidates for membership to the First Congregational Church of Brimfield.
3. Limited parish visitation.

There are two fields in which the Deacons of this Church should be more active, and these are covered in the By-Laws of the Church. These maybe described briefly as: assistance to the ministry of the church in matters of parish visitation and helping the needy.

Respectfully submitted, T. Keith Hill, Chair

Ushers

The following Church members have served as ushers in groups of four for monthly periods during 1953-54.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
P. S. Benjamin	Robt. Bruce Jr.	William Cox
Henry Eddy	Richard Martin	Andrew Sordek
Charles Cole	Richard Hayward	Herman Horton
Enoch Wright	Kenneth Brown	Gerry Lewis

Spares: Percy Moore - Fred Worby.

Thanks should go to all for this help

Group #3 is serving during the month of May which will allow the Chairman for 1954-1955 to get organized to carry on, thereafter.

Respectfully submitted, Philip S. Benjamin, Chair.

Christian Education Committee

During the 1953-54 Church year, the Christian Education Committee met monthly with the ex Officio members, the S.S. Supt., and the Minister During the early part of the Sunday School year, training courses for teachers were given in the West Congregational Church. Most of the teaching staff of the Sunday School of our church attended these sessions.

Sunday School began in late September, with the regular lessons starting the first Sunday in October. For the first time in recent years, the Sunday School will run through the end of June, and "Children's Day" will be the last Sunday of June.

In various discussions in the monthly meetings of the Committee, it was decided that teaching could be improved by the members of the Committee visiting in S.S. Classes. This program has been started and it is expected that a continuance of the visitation of classes, and a frank discussion with the teachers will result in an ever-improving

In. Mect Reports

Cultivation of [illegible].

An Adult S. S. Class was organized at the beginning of the church year, and has continued to grow in size throughout the year. The starting average attendance was approximately 5. The present average attendance is between 12 and 15.

The committee observed the following needs:
1. Continued and improved teacher training.
2. More adequate class rooms (with particular attention to eliminating the many distractions of noise of adjacent classes)
3. Additional parent participation (altho the adult classes continue to grow in size, very few parents of S. S. children are regularly represented in this class)

Vacation Bible School will be held this summer.
Offering envelopes were instituted for Sunday School.

Respectfully submitted, T. K. Hill, Chair.

Sunday School

This report covers the activites of our Sunday School from last June until the present.

The annual picnic was held on Tower Hill with most appropriate facilities provided through the cutesy of the Smiths and the kindness of Mr and Mrs. Lewis.

Fall activities were resumed with Rally Day on Sept. 20 when 87 children and adults were registered by a staff of 9 teachers. An adult class was started with 12 enrolled and has maintained an average attendance of about the same number. We have high hopes that the coming year will see more parents attending S.S. with their children.
Attendance figures for entire school are as follows:-

Number who have attended during year	124
Maximum attendance (one Sunday)	95
Minimum " "	56
Average " (approximate)	75

The S. S has been fortunate indeed, this year, in having the guidance and wholehearted interest of both the Religious Education Committee and our Pastor.

A teacher training program held in Vare for 5 successive Monday nights during Sept and Oct. was attended by teachers, supt, pastor, and members of Religious Education Committee.

Our school facilities were improved through the initiative of, and hard work by those who made and hung the dividing curtains, cleaned and redecorated the Kindergarten room and

Date Recd		How Removed
July 5, 1953 P	Brown, Mabel	
July 5, 1953 P	Brown, Howard	
July 5, 1953 P	Brown, Kenneth	
July 5, 1953 P	Bruce, Mary	
July 5, 1953 P	Bruce, Robert, Jr.	
August 1, 1954 L	Bradley, Arthur L.	Jr. Holland Cong.
Aug. 1, 1954 L	Bradley, Margarite A.	Jr. Holland Cong. (Mrs. A. L.)
July 5, 1953 P	Cadieux, Barbara Howlett	from Catholic
July 5, 1953 P	Cadieux, William	from Catholic
July 5, 1953 P	Carpenter, Sandra	
July 5, 1953 P	Cox Nancy Edwards	
July 5, 1953 P	Cox William	
Aug. 1, 1954 L	Cook, Carolyn B (Mrs)	Jr. Wales Baptist

Church Members, Jan. 1, 1948 — May 6, 1955

Date Received			How Removed
July 3, 1903	P	Adams, Adella 221 Monsion Ave. W. Somerville Mass	
March 29, 1945	P	Aucoin, Clifford	
March 8, 1951	L	Allen, Eileen (fr. East Baptist, Agawam)	
March 18, 1951	Reaff.	Allen, (Mrs. Richard)	
Nov. 23, 1951	L	Ackerman, Edna (Mrs.) Trinity M.E. Springfield Mass	
July 5, 1953	L	Ainsworth Joan	
July 5, 1953	L	Ainsworth Robert	
Nov. 23, 1952	P	Boutwell, Geraldine	
Nov. 23, 1952	P	Benjamin Bette	
April 2, 1950	P	Benjamin, Philip S. Wiles Rd	
April 2, 1950	P	Birchenough, Albert H.	
Jan 15 1950	L	Birchenough, Albert E	
Jan 15 1950	L	Birchenough, Bertha	
Jan. 3, 1903	L	Bissell, Alma Warren Rd.	
May 2, 1947	L	Bissell, Frederick Warren Rd.	
Apr. 9, 1939	L	Blair, Isabella M. RFD	
April 8, 1934	P	Brown, Arthur Edgar Warren Rd.	
Oct. 27, 1946	P	Brown, Barbara Tower Hill Rd.	Married 12/31/49 - see Chaffee
April 9, 1939	L	Brown, Bessie	Died Mar. 8, 1955
Mar. 1, 1896	P	Brown, Clarence B.	
Apr. 22, 1943	P	Brown, Lena (Mrs. P.T.) Tower Hill Rd.	
Apr. 8, 1934	P	Brown, Mary Lillian Howard (Mrs. A.E.)	
Apr. 12, 1930	P	Brown, Richard F.	
Mar. 21, 1940	P	Byron, Maude Booth Fiskdale	To Catholic Church
Apr 10, 1949	L	Benjamin, Helen T. (Mrs. Phillip)	
Apr 10, 1949	L	Bennet, Roger W. Warren Rd.	
April 11, 1949	L	Bennett, Beatrice (Mrs. R.)	
Dec. 19, 1937	P	Brown, Harriet (Tarbell) (Mrs Richard)	
Nov. 23, 1952	P	Cole, Charles	
Nov. 23, 1952	L	Clarke, Alice (Mrs. Raymond) of Congregational South Bridge Mass	
April 2, 1950	P	Carey, May	
April 2, 1950	Reaff.	Cross, Gertrude E (Mrs Hubert)	
Oct. 27, 1946	P	Chaffee, Barbara Brown Mrs Roy M. 12/31/49	
[illegible] 1, 1949	L	Cole, [illegible] (Mrs. Charles)	
Jan. 3, 1903	L	Campbell, Sara L.H. (Mrs. B.E.)	Died 1955
Mar. 2, 1919	P	Campbell, Warren H.	Died Aug. 29, 1949
May 2, 1920	P	Chamberlain, Helena (Mrs. Philip Lawrence)	
April 16, 1933	L	Clark, Ross	To Faith Church, Springfield 10/4/53
April 16, 1933	L	Clark, Sarah (Mrs. R. S.)	To Faith Church, Springfield 10/4/53
April 16, 1933	P	Clark, Ross S. Jr.	To Episcopal Church 1950 (W. Spfd)
Nov. 20, 1927	L	Clarke, Ida (Mrs. Harry)	
Nov. 2, 1927	L	Clarke, Raymond	
Oct. 7, 1945	L	Cook, Edith	Died March 8, 1953
Mar. 14, 1948	P	Coolbroth, Mabel	
Mar. 14, 1948	P	Coolbroth, [illegible]	Married - see Stanton
Oct. 27, 1946	P	Coon, Gladys	To Catholic Church - [illegible] 2/3/53

Aug 1, 1954 P Dreyer, Nancy
Nov. 23, 1952 P Dewey, Ann
Nov. 20, 1927 P De Forest, Flora — Died ~~March~~ May 1950
Apr. 10, 1941 L De [illegible], Charles Jr.
Apr. 10, 1941 L De [illegible], Madge Kay (Mrs. [illegible])
Apr. 3, 1949 P Dickinson, Virginia Field
Jan 2, 1927 P Dockham, Catherine (Mrs. George)

Apr. 5, 1953 P Eddy, Henry
Apr. 5, 1950 P Eddy, Ethel

Dec. 17, 1945 P Fish, Marian
[illegible] 3, 1953 P Fresh, Coral Jean (Higgleworth)
Nov. 23, 1952 P Fry, Charlotte
Apr. 5, 1953 P Fry, Christine
July 5, 1953 P Fry, Christine

Oct. 5, 1941 P Gifford, Frank
Oct. 1, 1941 P Gilford, Catherine (Mrs. Frank)
Oct. 7, 1945 P Goetze, Doris (Mrs. Harold)
Oct. 7, 1945 P Goetze, Joan
Jan 4, 1953 L Gregory, George
Jan 4, 1953 L Gregory, [illegible] (Mrs. Geo.)
Jan 4, 1953 L Gregory, David
Apr. 2, 1953 L Gondek, Andrew — by letter from (Fed. Ch. Warren
Apr. 2, 1953 L Gondek, Katherine (Mrs. Andrew)
July 5, 1953 P Hayward, Clark
July 5, 1953 P Hayward, Jean
Apr. 2, 1953 P Horton, [illegible]
Apr. 2, 1953 L Horton, Priscilla (Meth. Ch. W. Warren)
Apr. 2, 1953 P Horton, Roland
Apr. 2, 1953 P Howlett, Frances
July 5, 1953 P Hayward, Richard

Nov. 25, 1953	P	Howlett, Alma (Mrs. Norman)	
Nov. 25, 1953	P	Howlett, Anna	
Nov. 25, 1953	P	Howlett, Norman	
Mar. 21, 1940	L	Harrington, Mrs. George	
Mar. 21, 1940	L	Harrington, Mr. James R.	11/6/49 letter to Boston Street M.E. Lynn Mass
May 6, 1934	P	Hastings, Beatrice Dickinson (Mrs. ~~Charles~~ Lawrence)	
Mar. 21, 1940	P	Hatch, James C.	
Mar. 21, 1940	P	Hatch, Pauline (Mrs. James)	
Apr. 10, 1941	L	Hicks, Agnes Bates (Mrs. Stanley C.)	
May 5, 1946	P	Hicks, Shirley	
Jan. 1, 1928	L	Hitchcock, Mary K. (Mrs. George E.	
Oct. 31, 1943	P	Horton, Mabel (Mrs. Herman) (Reunited by letter 4/2/53)	
Apr. 10, 1935	P	[illegible]	14/2/51 letter to Southampton Long Is.
March 18, 1951	P	Hicks, Julia B	
Nov. 23, 1952	L	Hill, Helen Methodist Bellaire Texas	Letter to Bellaire Methodist 2/5/55 Bellaire Texas
Nov. 23, 1952	L	Hill, T. Keith Methodist Bellaire Texas	" "
Apr. 7 1953	L	Herrington, Mildred (Methodist S. Hicksville N.Y.)	
Apr 7, 1953	P	Herrington [illegible]	
Nov. 25, 1953	P	Hoyt, Ila	
April 6, 1952	L	Jezek, Edmund	
April 6, 1952	L	Jezek, Martha (Mrs. E.)	
Mar. 21, 1940	P	Keith, Barbara Wood (Mrs. Clarence)	
May 6, 1934	P	Keith, Clarence	
Jan. 1, 1927	L	[illegible]	
Dec. 19, 1937	P	Kemp, Marjorie	
Jan. 4, 1925	P	Knowlton, Adelaide Dockham	Died July 30 1950
Jan 4, 1952	L	Klinger, Eugene L.	
Jan 4, 1952	L	Klinger, (Mrs. Eugene L.)	
Jan 4, 1952	L	Klinger, Eugene L. Jr.	
Jan 4, 1952	L	Klinger, Richard L.	
July 5, 1953	P	Klinger, George	
Aug 1, 1954	P	Lindell, Colin	
July 5, 1953	P	Lawrence Mary (Mrs. J. Frederick) from Catholic	
July 5, 1953	L	Lapean, Bertha (Mrs. Thomas)	
Apr. 7, 1953	L	Lawrence, Gladys (First Meth. Ch. Southbridge)	
Apr. 7, 1953	Ref.	Lawrence, Walter	
[illegible] 29, 1945	L	Landen, Evelyn Bickford (Mrs Harley H)	
Sept. 4, 1952	P	Landen, [illegible] Dockham	
Nov. 5, 1916	L	Landen, Grace Dockham (Mrs. Harry B)	
Apr. 10, 1941	P	Landen, Harley Howard	
Apr. 3, 1927	P	Landen, Helen Gifford	
Jan. 4, 1908	L	Lawrence, Annie G. (Mrs. Fred N.)	
Oct. 7, 1945	P	Lawrence, Fredericia	
Mar. 14, 1948	P	Lawrence, Lucinda	
April 10, 1949	L	Lindell, Pearl E. (Mrs Alex)	
Apr. 7, 1953	P	Lewis ~~Terry~~ a	
Apr. 7, 1953	P	Lewis Gertrude	

[illegible] L McLeod, Eileen Olive (Mrs. Steven) [illegible] 1955 [illegible]
Nov. 25, 1953 P Martin, Edna (Mrs. H. W.)
Nov. 25, 1953 P Martin, H. Wesley
March 9, 1952 L Miller, Etha Davis (Mrs Rufus) 1st Baptist Ames, Iowa Letter to Cong. Ch. Hayden, Colo. 9/29/54
March 9, 1952 L Miller, Rufus Ward Union [illegible] South Fyforo Mass. Letter to Cong. Ch. Hayden, Colo. 9/29/54
March 18, 1951 L Macumber, Verva (fr. Presbyterian Ch. in Canada)
March 18, 1951 P Macumber, Joan
Apr. 7, 1950 P Mc Lain, Robert Ernest
Oct. 21, 1945 L [illegible] Beatrice (Mrs. Robert)
Mar. 14, 1948 P MacConnell, Ruth married 4/18/53 to John Morin - Now United with Catholic Ch.
Oct. 7, 1945 L MacGillivray, Edith (Mrs. Hugh)
Oct. 7, 1945 L MacGillivray, Hugh
Oct. 7, 1945 P MacGillivray, Robert
Apr. 3, 1927 P Maddocks, Marie
L Manter, Rev. John E 9/30/51 Letter to Lonsville Me
L Manter, Ruth (Mrs. John E) 9/30/51 Letter to Lonsville Me
Mar. 14, 1948 P Martin, Alice
Apr. 7, 1939 L [illegible] Alice
Oct. 7, 1945 P Matheson, Joanne
May 2, 1920 P Moore, Percy N.
Mar. 14, 1948 P Morin, Alfred 4/18/53 Letter to [illegible]
May 13, 1951 L MacConnell Barbara (Nichols)
Apr. 2, 1953 Reg. Mallon, Electa
July 5, 1953 P Martin, Richard
Nov. 25, 1953 P Martin Robert

Apr. 2, 1953 L Norton, Belle (Mrs Horatio) (Hope Cong. Ch. [illegible])
Apr. 2, 1953 L Norton, Horatio
July 5, 1953 L Nilson, Frank
July 5, 1953 P Nilson, Lois (Mrs. Frank)

Mar. 21, 1940 L Parker, Esther (Mrs. Stanley)
Apr. 5, 1931 P Parker, Homer
Apr. 9, 1909 L Pierce, Mabel (Mrs. Charles L.)
Oct. 27, 1946 P Pierce, Lila
Dec. 19, 1937 P Phillips, Barbara ~~Ann~~ Ellen
July 4, 1909 P Phillips, Ruth N. (Mrs. Louis)
Mar. 21, 1940 P Plumley, Evelyn Adams (Mrs. Ralph)
Mar. 14, 1948 P Pliffer Lucinda (Lawrence)
July 5, 1953 L Parker, Evelyn V
July 5, 1953 P Parker, Ruth (Mrs. Homer)
July 5, 1953 P Plumley, Ralph

Nov. 29, 1945	L	Reinheimer, Helen	Joined Catholic Church April 1950
Nov. 23, 1952	L	Ramsey, Bernice (Mrs Richard) 1st Cong. Pt. Huron Mich.	
Nov. 3, 1952	L	Ramsey, Richard 1st Cong. Pt Huron Mich	
July 5, 1953	P	Roy, Thirle	
Nov. 24, 1954	L	Stuart Grace (Mrs. Robt) } fr. Trinity M.E. Spfld	
Nov. 24, 1954	L	Stuart Robert }	
Aug 1, 1954		Streeter (Mrs. Robt.) — Associate	
Apr. 6, 1954	P	Smith, Evelyn Tulip (Mrs Grant)	
July 5, 1953	L	Stickney, Violet (Mrs. George)	
July 5, 1953	L	Stickney, Beverly	
July 5, 1953	L	Stickney, Sharon Lee	
July 5, 1953	L	Stone, Maude	
July 5, 1953	L	Switzer, Effie P	Died [illegible] 1954
Dec. 19, 1937	P	Sherman, George Benjamin, Jr.	
Nov. 5, 1916	L	Sherman, Hester Linden (Mrs. Geo. Benj. Sr.)	
Mar. 21, 1945	P	Sherman, Phyllis (Turcotte) (Mrs. Geo. Benj. Jr.)	
Apr. 22, 1943	L	Silvius, Kenneth	
Apr. 22, 1943	L	Silvius, Vera (Mrs. Kenneth)	
July 4, 1915	P	Spooner, Ethel E.	
May 2, 1920	P	Spooner, Lawrence Whipple	Letter to So. Cong. Church, Pittsfield Mass 10/1/50
July 4, 1915	L	Spooner, Myra F. (Mrs. Wm. S.)	
Mar. 2, 1919	P	Spooner, William Danforth	
Apr. 10, 1933	L	Stegner, Freda Beicher (Mrs. Joseph)	
Nov. 6, 1949	L	Sonigo, Dorothy Towne (Mrs. John)	Letter to Bethesda Presbyterian Camden S.C. 10/29/50
Nov. 6, 1949	L	Sonigo, John Jr.	Letter to Bethesda Presbyterian Camden S.C. 10/29/50
Nov. 6, 1949	L	Smith, Ruby (Frink) (Mrs Francis B)	
Mar 14, 1948	P	Stanton, Nancy Coolbrath (Mrs. Ralph)	
Nov 6, 1949	Reaf.	Spooner, Juliane (Mrs. Wm. D.)	
Nov. 23, 1952	L	Segrin Joyce (Mrs. Robt.) Trinity M.E. Spfld. Mass	Letter to Cong. Ch. Monson Mass 1/11/55
Nov. 23, 1952	P	Segrin Robert	Letter to Cong. Ch. Monson Mass 1/11/55
Apr. 2, 1953	L	Sherris Gladys (Laird)	
Apr. 2, 1953	P	Sherris Simon	
Apr. 2, 1953	Reg	Smith Adelbelle (Mrs. Francis C.)	
[illegible]	P	Turbell, Harriet Stigeath see Brown	m. Richard [illegible]
Mar. 21, 1940	P	Thomas, Betty (Hatch) (Mrs.	
Apr. 12, 1936	P	Thompson, Grace Sherman (Mrs. Roy O.)	
Mar. 14, 1948	P	Towne, Jerrald	12/25/49 By letter to [illegible] Baptist
Mar. 14, 1948	L	Towne, Robert	12/25/49 "
Mar. 14, 1948	P	Towne, Roger	12/25/49 "
Mar. 14, 1948	L	Towne, Evelyn (Mrs. Robert)	12/25/49 "
Mar. 18, 1951	P	Treat, Richard	2/2/53 By Letter to First Cong. Spencer K.C. 2/4/53 Married to Frank Smith
April 6, 1952	P	Tulip Evelyn	
Nov. 24, 1954	L	Rev. Allen Francis Tinkham fr. Cong. Ch. Mattapoisett Mass	
Nov. 24, 1954	P	Cynthia Tinkham (Mrs. A.F.)	

Oct. 7, 1945 P Van Hook, Lyra
March 18, 1951 P Van Hook, Evelyn Weis
March 18, 1951 Re of faith Van Hook, Evelyn (Mrs. Joseph)

Jan. 7, 1944 P Walker, Gladys L.
May 2, 1920 P Walker, Lucille Lawrence (Mrs. B. F.) Rec'd to Fed. Ch. Sturbridge 3/23/53
Mar. 3, 1949 P Wason, Raidene Reddman (Mrs. [illegible])
Jan. 2, 1927 L Webster, Alfreda Mae (Mrs. Charles H.) Died Jan 15, 1949
Jan. 1, 1927 P Whitten, Gladys Moore (Mrs. Eugene)
Jan. 12, 1936 P Wood, Charles Parker To Cath. Faith rem. 1954
July 4, 1915 P Wood, Ella Parker (Mrs. J. N.) Died Nov 1959
Oct. 7, 1945 P Worby, Fredrick L.
Mar. 21, 1940 L Worby, Mary (Mrs. Fred. L.)
Apr. 16, 1950 P Wright, Elaine Phillips (Mrs. Frank)
Jan. 2, 1927 P Wright, Jean Whitten (Mrs. Walter)
May 3, 1925 P Wright, Mary E. Moore (Mrs. Kenneth)
April 10, 1949 P Worby, Stewart L.
April 2, 1950 P Walker, Barbara
April 2, 1950 P Walker, Lula
March 18, 1951 Reg. Weston, Olive (Mrs. Perry)
March 18, 1951 L Weston, Perry (fr. Park Cong. Springfield)
March 18, 1951 Reg. Wigglesworth, Alfred
March 18, 1951 Reg. Wigglesworth, Sarah (Mrs. Alfred)
Nov. 23, 1952 Reg. Wheaton Edith
Nov. 23, 1952 Reg. Wheaton, Henry
Nov. 23, 1952 P Whitten Patty
July 5, 1953 P Wood, Margery
July 5, 1953 P Wood, Nancy
July 5, 1953 XR Wright, Enoch Died Aug. 19, 1954
July 5, 1953 P Wright, Frederick

		Male	Female	Total
Membership Jan. 1, 1948		31	73	104
Admissions	Letter	1	1	2
	Conf. of Faith	3	5	8
		35	79	114
Removals	Retired	1		1
	Letter	2	2	4
	Death	2	1	3
Membership Jan. 1, 1949		32	76	108
Admissions	Letter	2	6	8
	Conf. of Faith	1	1	2
		35	83	118
Removals	Letter	4	1	5
	Death	1	1	2
Membership Jan. 1, 1950		30	81	111
Admissions	Letter	1	1	2
	Conf. of Faith	3	2	5
		34	84	118
Removals	Letter	3	1	4
	Death	1	2	3
	To Retired		1	1
Membership Jan. 1, 1951		30	80	110

Baptisms — Rev. John G. Manter

Date	Name	Parents of Children
1948 March 14	Mabel Hitchcock Coolbroth (Mrs)	Geo. and Mary K. Hitchcock
"	Nancy Coolbroth (age)	Mabel H. and Homer Coolbroth
"	Alice Hitchcock Martin (Mrs)	Geo. and Mary K. Hitchcock
"	Alfred Morin	
June 13	Gary Edward Brown (b. 10/4/47)	Lillian Howard & Arthur Edgar Brown
"	Dwight Bradley Foy (Southbridge b. 12/5/47)	Lillian E. & Raymond Alvin Foy
"	Andrea Kay Gondek (b. 5/11/47)	Kathryn M. Rosier & Andrew Walter Gondek
"	Lois Jean Lawrence (b. 11/11/47)	Mary Jane & John Frederick Lawrence
"	Ronald Archie Moreau (b. 4/1/47)	Barbara Hilbert & Archie Joyce Moreau
"	Walter Arnold Steed Jr. (b. 4/14/47)	Shirley McLaughlin & Walter Arnold Steed
"	Mary Elizabeth Thompson (Palmer 4/14/47)	Grace Sherman & Roy O'Brien Thompson
June 27	Kathryn Anne Thornley (4/20/47)	Evelyn Adams & Ralph Milton Thornley
September 11	Maureen Elizabeth Sawyer (Gardner 7/11/47)	Helen & Lawrence Sawyer
October 24	Richard David Bradway (Palmer b. 3/29/49)	Roberta Pittman & Richard Bennett Bradway
"	Marcia Ann Dimmock (Springfield b. 4/3/48)	Lola Hewlett & Charles A. Dimmock
"	Sarah Henrietta Dimmock (Brimfield 2/22/51)	Lola Hewlett & Charles A. Dimmock
"	Norman Locke Hewlett (Southbridge 3/10/47)	Alma Biggs & Norman Locke Hewlett
"	Louis Eugene Martin Jr. (Palmer 7/14/48)	Marion & Louis Eugene Martin
1949 June	Milton Edwin Lanato (Holyoke b. 1/2/49)	Lillian & Milton Edwin Lanato
April 10	Philip George Degnan (Springfield b. 12/14/48)	Alice Higgleswortl & Wm. Gordon Degnan
"	Gwendolyn Jean Freeh (Palmer b. 2/7/49)	Carol (Higgleswortl) & Wm. August Freeh
June 12	Virginia May Thompson (Palmer b. 1/24/49)	Grace E. (Sherman) & Roy O'Brien Thompson
"	Ellen Ann Freeman (Worcester b. 4/4/49)	Harriet (Maddocks) & Wesley Brown Freeman
"	Priscilla Jean Sherman (Springfield b. 3/25/49)	Tia (Cerrie) & John Lenden Sherman
"	Frank Gifford Kenden (Springfield b. 10/13/48)	Helen Gifford & Everett Hodkins Kenden
"	Anne Cheryl Lindell (Springfield b. 5/7/46)	Paul E. & Ada Cadon Lindell
"	Harry William Anderson Jr. (Springfield b. 2/22/49)	Doris E. & Harry Wm. Anderson Jr.
"	Eugenia Conley Hosman (Springfield b. 3/20/47)	Barbara (Hilland) & Walter R. Hosman
"	Richard Edward Hilland (Springfield b. 11/3/47)	Norma R. & John Ernest Hilland
"	Nancy May Bliss (Worcester b. 11/14/47)	Beatrice E. & William Francis Bliss
Oct 9	Nancy Wyman Spencer (Springfield b. 2/5/47)	Johanna & William Dunfield Spencer
"	Susan Emily Spencer (Springfield b. 12/21/47)	Johanna & William Dunfield Spencer
1950 June 11 at Cong. Ch. Holland	Rachel Elizabeth Foy (Palmer b. 11/11/49)	Mary Alice & Alpheus Hamilton Foy
	David Roy Weber b. 7/3/43 Rockville Ct.	Irene Emily & Fred Elias Weber
	Susanne Elizabeth Ernest (b. 2/16/50 Southbridge)	Shirley Elizabeth & Alfred Harry Ernest
	Edward Walter Gondek b. 11/25/50 Palmer	Kathryn Rosier & Andrew Walter Gondek
	Kenneth Wilfred Booth b. 9/25/49 Springfield	Eileen Mildred & George Howard Booth
	Linda Lee Steed b. 5/10/50 Rutland Ct.	Shirley McLaughlin & Walter Arnold Steed
	Eugene Stevens Griswold (b. 10/10/49 Palmer)	Edna Wadsworth & John Alfred Griswold
	David Stanley Parker b. 9/30/47 New York N. Y.	Ruth Carpenter & Homer Leonard Parker
	John Lenden Sherman Jr. (b. 4/19/50 Springfield)	Pia Edith Bracci & John Lenden Sherman
	David George Keeson (b. 1/24/50 Palmer)	Katherine Rockburn & Norman Owen Keeson
Sept 17	Beverly Jo Thomas (b. 10/7/49 Battle Creek Mich)	Betty Hatch & Donald E. Thomas
Sept 24	Kimberly Wright (b. 1/13/49 Worcester)	Elaine Knapp & Enoch Gragg Wright
Nov. 26	Anne Maclean Hudson (in Tokyo Japan, b. 7/29/50 Tokyo)	Charlotte Maclean Day & Capt. Paul Farley Hudson

Baptisms, Rev. John G. Marsten

1951	Name	Parents
March 25	David William Pinkey b. 10/1/49 Wave	Chester Walter & Pearl Rita Pinkey ~~Hicks~~
	Helen Eileen Pinkey b. 12/7/50 Wave	Chester Walter & Pearl Rita Pinkey ~~Hicks~~
May 13	Cynthia Ellen Gee b. 3/9/51 Epps	William August & Carol (Wigglesworth) Gee
June 3	Daniel Howard Keith b. 10/31/50 Southbridge	Clarence Howard & Barbara Wood Keith
	Jacqueline Marie Wadsworth b. 11/9/42 Palmer	John Alfred & Edna Wadsworth Griswold
	Patricia Lee Thompson b. 10/31/45 Palmer	Roy O'Bennett & Grace Sherman Thompson
	Kathleen Marie Martin b. 3/30/50 Palmer	Louis Eugene & Marie Lucian Martin

Baptisms, Rev. Rufus W. Miller

1952 April 20	Glen Durwood Barr b. 2/1/52	Sumner & Dorothy Barr
	Douglas Robert Legrin b. 3/4/52	Robert & Joyce Legrin
April 6	Evelyn Tulip adult	
June 7	John Russell Senigo 3rd b. 10/6/51	John Jr & Dorothy Senigo
	Sheryl Ann Mac Connell b. 4/31/51	Robert & Barbara Mac Connell
	Nancy Ann Hicks b. 3/5/51	William & Shirley Hicks
	Gerald Eugene Hatch b. 3/4/52	Gerald & Francis (Eugene) Hatch
	Charles Lewis Stanton b. 9/14/51	Ralph & Nancy Stanton
Sept. 7	Richard Hatch Phifer b. 1/26/52	Robert L & Beverly (Hatch) Phifer
	James Lewis Thomas b. 12/14/51	Donald & Betty Hatch Thomas
	John Wesley Freeman b. 7/31/52	Wesley & Harriet (Maddocks) Freeman
	Robert Wood Keith b. 9/13/52	Clarence & Barbara (Wood) Keith
	Charles Ward Miller b. 4/23/52	Rufus & Etha Davis Miller
Nov. 21 1953	Ann Dewey (Mrs. Leslie) adult	
April 2	Frances Howlett adult	
May 31	Bruce Randall Bennett b. 3/27/53	Roger W. & Beatrice N. Bennett
	Rebecca Bradway b. 12/21/51	Richard E. & Roberta T. Bradway
	Thomas James Brown b. 11/16/52	Richard J. & Harriet T. Brown
	Robert Dennis Martin b. 6/19/52	Louis E & Marie C Martin
	Joan Gregory Miller b. 7/5/50	Rufus W & Etha Davis Miller
	Sharon Evelyn Lumley b. 9/5/52	Walter M & Lucy Adams Lumley
	John Howard Harris b. 9/14/50	Lincoln & Lady Louise Harris
	Martha Jane Thompson b. 1/1/46	Roy O & Grace Sherman Thompson
	Audrey Weston b. 7/12/52	Perry & Olive Dick Weston
	Marcia Weston b. 7/20/48	Perry & Olive Dick Weston
	Peter Weston b. 6/7/46	Perry & Olive Dick Weston
	Kathleen Day Jezek b. 3/29/53	Edward & Martha Ackerman Jezek
July 3	Mary Bruce	Robert &
	Sandra Carpenter	George & Dorothy Carpenter
	William Cox adult	
	Nancy Edwards Cox adult	
July 5 1954	Herbert Wright adult	
June 27	Alan Edward Sherman b. 11/18/53 Palmer	John L and Pia Bracci Sherman
	John Alfred Griswold Jr b. 3/14/54 Palmer	John A and Edna Wadsworth Griswold
	Ralph Ira Stanton Jr. b. 8/11/52 Th. Gr. Ch.	Ralph I and Nancy Coolbroth Stanton
	Stephen Alan Phifer b. 5/10/53 Palmer	Robert J. and Beverly Hatch Phifer

Baptisms, Rev. Rufus W. Miller

Date 1954	Name	Parents
June 27	Donald Scott McCormick	b. 11/7/53 Palmer Donald and Janet Wesson McCormick
	Jerry Scott Hill	b. 12/18/53 Spfld. Thomas Keith and Helen L Hill
	David Craig Silvius	b. 7/25/53 Palmer C. Kenneth and Vera O
	Candace Elaine Thompson	b. 1/27/54 Palmer Roy O and Grace Sherman Thompson
Aug 15	William Edward Cadieux Jr.	b. 5/27/54 Sbge. Wm. E. and Barbara Howlett Cadieux
	Betty Jane Devero	b. 5/7/54 Sbge. John and Mary Jane Devero
	Sandra Jean Carpenter	b. 7/26/54 Sla/Spg Conn. Ralph and Nancy Ann Coolbroth Stanton

Marriages by Rev. John G. Mosler

1948

1949

March 26, 1949 Omer F. Bonnette and [illegible]

June 18 William Robert Flint and Carolyn Ruby Hunt

June 25 Richard James Brown of Brimfield and Harriet [illegible]

Sept. 17 Stephen John Hornacek and Barbara Louise Kroyer of Wales

Dec. 17 Robert James Phifer of Brimfield and [illegible] of Brimfield

[illegible] 21 [illegible] Adams Jr. and [illegible] Patricia Hooker of Brimfield

1950

July 15 Frank C. Dickinson (19) Jr. Brimfield and Louise Houghton (18) of Warren

Sept 2 Richard Noble (23) Hicks Brimfield and Shirley Evelyn (21) Duellette Brimfield

Dec 3 Robert John MacConnell Jr Brimfield and Barbara (18) Agnes Nichols Springfield

Dec 23 Harold Ralph (21) Hatch, Holland and Francis Louise (21) Stagner, Brimfield

1951

March 18 Ralph E. Stanton (24) Brimfield and Nancy Ann (16) Colbath, Brimfield

March 31 Edward Joseph (31) Staffordville Ct. and Martha Ann (24) Sherman, Staffordville, Ct.

March 24 Lalie E. Nichols (54) Monson and Shirley (23) Marie Monson

May 1 Stanley F. Baker, Wales and Pauline (Hixson) Moon, Palmer

May 19 Robert Sepin (30) Springfield and Joyce Ackerman, Brimfield

June 3 Ralph L. Miller, Sodaville, H. Milbfield Ct. and Lucy Bennis, Springfield

June 5 William Burgess, Brimfield and Margaret Allen, Brimfield

June 13 Arthur George Parker Jr., Wst Springfield and Janet E. Kinney, Monson

July 8 Edmund L. Jay, Chicopee Falls and Rita A. Phifer, Brimfield

1951

Nov. — Marriages by Harold Bentley (Interim minister) —

— Marriages by Rev. Rufus H. Miller —

1952

Sept 6 Paul M. Comer, Harrisburg Pa. and Virginia Manganiello, Monson Mass.

Nov. 12 Fred Hunt, Holland and Alice Hoy, Holland

1953

March 21 Harry Phifer, Brimfield and Lucinda Lawrence, Brimfield

March 24 Harold Bassett, Springfield and Dorothy MacGillivray, Brimfield

June 6 Grant Smith, Springfield and Evelyn Tulip, Brimfield

July 18 St. Lionel Clement, 326 Worcester St, Southbridge and Lillian Rivard, Southbridge

July 24 Richard Brunke, 327 Beacon St, Boston and Peggy Phillips, Boston

July 25 Earl R. Emerson, Bedford St, Betty R. Walker, Boston St.

Aug. 12 Anthony Magellan, New Haven, Conn. and Louise Hill, Brimfield

Sept. 12 Steven Melnick, Palmer and Eileen Allen, Brimfield

Nov. 7 [illegible] Devena, Brimfield and Mary Jane Doty, Monson

Marriages by Rev. Rufus K. Miller Cont.

Dec. 14 Daniel V. Trasbridge, Sturbridge and Patrice Brandreth, Sturbridge.

Cont. from p. 121

Cleaned out cupboards for storage space.

Sunday School cont.

The use of offering envelopes was started with the fall quarter. Total envelope collections through May 2nd amounted to $365.63 which represents an average of $11.08 per Sunday.

At Thanksgiving bags containing food and clothing and $13.67 in money were sent to the "Little Wanderer's Home".

An appropriate Christmas party was made possible by generous contributions from the Church and several of the affiliated organizations and the good work of the committee in charge and, of course, Santa Claus. Others were remembered at this time through "white gift" and a sum of money for the children at Monson State Hospital. Through the efforts of Mr. Miller a fine cast was purchased with the money.

The Easter (Church) offering of $22.27 will help sponsor the religious education of a Chosen Puerto Rican girl student.

We are pleased that Frank Wilson has consented to be Assistant Superintendent of our school.

It is planned to complete pre-summer activities with Children's Day on June 27th.

A vacation school of two weeks duration is proposed for the latter part of June or the first part of July.

Respectfully submitted, George L. Gregory, Supt of S. S.

"B25" The B25 Class (By Love Serve) has a membership of 5 high school girls with an average attendance of 75% in Sunday School.

Their projects for the year were selling 'Air Fresh' and putting on a 'Christmas Tea'. For selling 'air-fresh' they received six pitchers which they gave to the Church. The money from the 'Tea' went to Missionary Work and the buying of 4 Bible story books which are used in Class study.

For service work they have helped with 'Tidings' and other Church papers, painted kindergarten tables and chairs, worked on Church slippers, substituted in Sunday School and kept S. S. records.

Diane Wright

Pilgrim Fellowship

The Pilgrim Fellowship meets regularly on Sunday evening in the vestry for a worship service, film strips, discussion, and fellowship. During the year the P.F. joined the Brookfield Association Pilgrim Fellowship and attended the fall rally in Brookfield and the spring rally in Southbridge. The P.F. also attended the Greenwich Union Rally in Spencer where one of our members was elected Treasurer of the Union from approximately 150 members. The purpose of these meetings is inter-fellowship, opportunity for youth to prepare and execute worship services (with supervision) to study and exchange ideas and methods of Pilgrim Fellowship and to encourage future leaders in religious work. The young people also attended the "University of Life" in Southbridge. 12 members and 3 adult leaders registered.

Membership is now 24 as contrasted to 5 in 1950.

The P.F. was host to 3 other fellowships. A spaghetti supper was served to 54 people, worship services held, and entertainment provided. In turn, we accepted invitations to join the Fellowships at their Churches for luncheon, worship, and entertainment.

Each month we have a social, sometimes two, consisting of square dancing or skating. Christmas Eve over 40 young people, with Rev. Miller, the Birchenoughs, and the Spooners went caroling about town in Wheeler's school bus. Upon returning to the Church there was hot chocolate, sandwiches, cookies and cake waiting for them.

The first service in the fall and last service of season is held as a Sunset Service and picnic on Birchenough's Knoll where officers are elected in the fall.

Missionary work accomplished consists of $15.00 sent to Gould Farm in the Berkshires, 2 films strips presented to the church, and $50.52 given for Korean orphans. The young people set aside one Saturday as "Work Day for Korean Orphans" People of the community telephoned in jobs to be done, approximate time each would take and whether a boy or girl was needed for the job. All money earned that day and all money taken in from a social that evening were given for Korean orphans. A dedication service was held during the social. 17 members participated in the Work Day.

There is a bal. of $57.94 in the Treasury which will be used to send some boys and girls to P.F. camp and for other useful purposes

cont. from

Many thanks to the parents who so generously gave of their time, energy, and use of their cars, for use of school bus and driver for caroling, and to Rev. Miller for his inspiration and untiring efforts to help young people to understand how to live a Christian life.

Religious Fellowship

Submitted for your approval,
Mr & Mrs Albert Richmough

Adventures in Reading

April 1, 1954 marked the end of the first five years of the Adventures in Reading program in this church. Fifteen readers have "qualified" by reading at least one book from each of the four groups — The Bible, the Church, and Devotional Life; General Education and Family Relationships; Christian Thought and Action; and that ever popular group, Fiction, Biography, and General.

Last summer, on the suggestion of Hebe Lauden and recommendation of Christian Education Committee with approval of Library Trustees it was decided to open the Brimfield Library for a brief period following each Sunday morning service, rather than continue bringing books to the church. This permits a wider range of choice for those who cannot readily visit the Library during its regular hours. At first several women helped on this service, but since some time in the fall, Miss Ella Hoyt has served regularly, with occasional relief from Mrs. Beatrice MacConnell.

This year, too, Church Tidings has carried monthly a report on some book from our lists. Included to date have been:

The Wonderful World of Books, Stefferud	Etha Miller
Mary Lincoln: Biography of a Marriage, Randall	Julia Newton
The Power of Positive Thinking, Peale	Alice Cole
What Is Jew?, Kertzer	Alice Belanger
Cinnabarina, Kenyon	Jean Ainsworth
Moral Victory	Gretchen Loux
Kissing, Jenko	Harriet Brown
Only Twice, Rich	Bea MacConnell

The Brimfield Library has been most cooperative, not only

in permitting the opening of the building after church, but in providing an excellent selection of books, and a convenient pausing for those wishing to select from these lists.

The LBS, too, at some of its meetings has provided an opportunity for glancing through some of the newer books, comparing notes with other readers, and taking out books if desired. These meetings also furnish opportunity for recording books read, and checking on others to keep in mind for further reading.

Ethel Spooner

Benevolence Committee

The first Benevolence Committee meeting was held the third Wednesday in September 1955, at which time the Committee elected officers, Chairman Henry G. Wheaton, Vice Chairman Ethel Eddy, Secretary Verva Macumber; who were elected by the Church, as members at large, other members were to be appointed by their respective organizations of the Church.

It was discovered that there was no information to carry out their program, so there were letters sent out to obtain this material, especially on some type of specific program. These were received and all taken into consideration. At our next meeting, our Committee decided to instigate a Benevolence Education program for the members of the Church. The Committee had Rev. Fisher from Spencer, a member of the District Missionary committee, to explain and enlighten us on the Benevolence program.

The Benevolence Committee sponsored a film "More for Peace" in its education program so all may get an idea of what it was all about. This was well attended and very helpful. At this Nov. 18 meeting a silver collection was taken of $8.25. This became the nucleus of our Missionary Promotion ~~Prog.~~ Fund which money was to be used in our education program to rent films, pay speakers, etc. Also we set our Committee meeting to be regularly on the third Wednesday of each month. It was further decided to designate our Church Christmas collection to Puerto Rico, or Korea, as the individual

Received or any other needy cause, as these two areas were places of our concentrated efforts. Of this collection, $11.25 was received for Puerto Rico, $51.50 went to Korea, and $4.87 went to General Benevolences.

Committee

Some of the projects selected were Ryder Memorial Hospital, Yuguid Rural Community and others in Puerto Rico (this comes under Home Missions) and the Christian Orphanage at Tongnae, Korea and others in Korea (these come under Foreign Missions). It was recommended to the Church that the next quarters Benevolence offerings be sent to these areas.

Order meeting stated that information for these projects be displayed on the bulletin board in the vestibule to familiarize our people with these areas of our concentration by the Benevolence Committee so all may see the need that is so apparent. The Committee also sponsored, at this meeting, two films of Korea so our people might become interested in aiding this desperate area.

At the next meeting the Committee recommended that Easter and Lenten denial folders be designated for Korea or Puerto Rico or other needy causes, that the Sunday School bank collections be used to further the studies of a Christian girl, Dominga Cotí, so that she may bring Christian teachings to the Puerto Rican people of her area.

Dr Albert Coe, President of the Executive Staff of the Massachusetts Conference and his wife (who have covered the entire world field of missionary activities) were invited to the March meeting to speak on missionary subjects, which was wonderful. The Committee regrets, however, that this meeting was not very well attended for it had made vast preparations and a great deal was missed by those absent from this open meeting to further understand our missionary work.

The Benevolence Committee submitted a budget of

$1,000.00 to the Trustees of the Church, at the time required, but was granted only $50.00. However, they are pleased to announce that at the Church

Benevolence Cont.

Canvass they received pledges totaling over their previous request and wish to thank the people for their generous contributions, which seems as a reward for our strenuous efforts.

This Committee also wishes to thank all those people who assisted it in its program - Mr. Miller, Mrs. Landers, the faithful members of the Committee and all others who helped in its work.

Be it further said that it is the hope of this Committee that the people of the Church will continue to support the Benevolence program and that the interest will grow with more required energy behind it so the Word of God will be heard throughout the land, as Jesus carried it throughout the world, let us do also.

Respectfully submitted, Henry C. Wheaton, Chair

Music Committee

Since last October the Chorus choir has been singing regularly three Sundays a month, with Helen Benjamin singing on the first Sunday of each month. The choir has also sung for some special services such as the Maundy Thursday service and the Brookfield Association meeting.

On Christmas Sunday the Junior Choir also assisted in the service.

It was decided last fall to subscribe to the Choir Herald, issued monthly, which gives the choir a continuous supply of good music, with a copy for each member.

The services of Mrs Helen Benjamin, as Choir director, and Mrs. Lena Brown as organist were retained for the year.

I would like to express appreciation to them and to all the members of the choir for their faithful work in interest of enriching our Church services.

Respectfully submitted, Gladys E. Le Land, Chair

L. B. S.

The Ladies Benevolent Society has regular monthly meetings with programs of varied interest. We have a membership of 67 members plus 2 honorary members.

We began the year with $285.97 in the Treasury.

C.B.S. Cash received from activities dues, meals served, Monsanto Concert, Rummage Sale, Sale of Pecans, Telephone Bridge, and minor miscellaneous items $624.64.

Expenditures:

Way and Means	$100.00
Sanding Floors (1953)	139.55
Heat for Church	60.-
S.S. Christmas Party	10-
Vacuum Cleaner for Church	59-
Choir Robes	58.28
Benevolences	45.00
Speakers	15.00
Miscellaneous	64.05
	595.60

Balance on hand (approximately $315.00

We have voted to spend $200.00 for additional banquet tables for the Church.

We also have a quantity of used clothing to be sent to a mission in the south.

Respectfully submitted, Jessica M. Scammell
Sec.

Fidelis The Fidelis Group which began as a Sunday School Class in 1933 has just 12 members. Each one chooses a month during the year when, from some project, she turns over $2.00 to the treasurer. Sunshine boxes are a source of income. In 1953 a small evening card party netted $13.00. The largest undertaking of the year was the making and selling of Christmas swags and wreaths that brought in $63.48.

During the year:

$ 76.50 was spent for hymnals for the sanctuary.
15.00 for Bibles for the Sunday School.
31.00 to buy folding chairs for the Parsonage
20.00 used at time of tornado disaster
10.00 for Red Cross
10.00 for Heart Fund
5.00 to Cancer Fund
and 5.00 toward Community Halloween Party

Respectfully submitted Mabel B. Pierce, Sec.

— Deaths —

1948 Feb. 20	Bertie E Campbell
March 7	Rev. Frederic Abraham Charles
	Mrs. Ruth [illegible]
1949 Jan. 15	Alfrena Wheeler (Mrs. Charles)
Aug. 27	Warren H. Campbell
1950 ~~March~~ May 25	Flora DeForest (Mrs. George)
July 30	Adelaide Knowlton (Mrs. George)
1953 March 8	Edith Cook
1954 January 6	Mrs. Electa Mallon
August 11	Enoch Wright
May 24	Effie Switzer
1955 March 8.	Bertha Brown

May 7
Annual Report

The Board of Trustees for 1953-4 comprised the following: Charles I. DeLand, Chairman, Everett D. Landen, William Spooner, Clarence B. Brown, and Terry Weston, Clerk. Ex officio members: Clarence Keith, Treasurer of the Church and Rev. Rufus W. Miller, Minister of the Church. The Trustees have met regularly each month throughout the year. The Church membership has shown excellent judgement in their selection of Mr. Weston and Mr. Landen as Trustees.

TRUSTEES

The largest concern of the Board has been with the repair and improvement of the Church and parsonage. The Chairman is pleased to report that with the continued interest of the members and friends of the Church it has been able to: (among other projects)

1 - Repair the Church roof including replacement of shingles.
2 - Repair the roof of the Parsonage barn.
3 - Repoint and reflash the Church chimney.
4 - Paint the Church.
5. Renovate the heating system in the parsonage which included running of some new steam lines and installation of a second radiator in the kitchen.
6 - Install new fire extinguishers and fire doors in the Church which will bring a rate reduction in insurance.
7. Install new storm sash in the north & west windows of parsonage.

We should like to express our appreciation to the Ways and Means Committee for its devoted service, particularly in raising the additional sum required to bring our minister to us on a full-time basis, and in successfully achieving the goal of the Every-member canvass.

The Sanctuary has been gracefully enhanced by the generous donation of a matched pair of flower stands by a member who wishes to remain anonymous. These stands were hand-made by Mr. Manbeck and Mr. Benoit, Sturbridge, Village craftsmen.

The LDS is to be complimented on the new look of the Vestry floor which it made possible as one of its projects. The members of the Men's Club assisted in preparing the floor for refinishing. Further, the LDS has donated a new tank type vacuum cleaner to the Church. The tables which the LDS is furnishing for the Church are particularly appreciated.

The repainting of the kindergarten floor and the comfort rooms are the results of an informal project undertaken by the Landens, Benjamins, Browns,

Trustees Mrs Herbert Wright and several others. Mr. Robert Cobbe has earned special credit for his faithful traffic duty.

There have been a number of other projects undertaken by many members and friends of the Church, such as electrical equipment in the vestry, card holders on the backs of pews and curtains for Sunday School in the vestry.

The Trustees have only the sincerest words of praise and appreciation for the many ways the members and friends of the Church have shown their willingness to cooperate.

Respectfully submitted, Charles T. McLand

Delegate to Brookfield Association

The annual spring meeting of the Brookfield Assoc. of Cong. Churches met in this Church May 2, 1954 at 3 P.M. We were host to this association for the first time in fifty years.

The business meeting was opened by Rev. J. Roy Packard, Moderator. Minutes and Roll Call read by Andrew J. Laux, Scribe.

Rev. Fisher gave missionary report, and although our association has gained a few miles in Benevolence giving, he suggested we could still improve - and gave two options:

1. a 50% increase in Benevolence giving each year, for 3 years.
2. A percentage Budget: For example: A Church having 5000-6,000 budget might increase 17% in Benevolence giving.

State Committee on Evangelism has been invited to visit individual churches and make recommendations to strengthen our lines to reach Christian work, and the care of our own members.

Mr. Miller was elected to the Nominating Committee.

We were happy to receive and entertain 135 ~~delegates~~ visitors and served 101 suppers. The proceeds of this supper, fifty five dollars, eighty cents ($55.80) will go to the Minister's Educational Fund at Andover Newton Theological Seminary.

Respectfully submitted Nova T. Macumber, Clerk
Lillian Brown

1954 May 16

At a special meeting following the morning service to elect two Delegates to the State Conference to be held in Quincy May 17, 18, 19 - Mr. Gerry Lewis was elected. No other person present being able to attend, it was voted that any other member who could be found able to attend might have the status of delegate from this Church.

E. B. Landen, Clerk